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AARINSECRET

Spring 2013 #3

INTERVIEW WITH

非墨 FEIMO

EVENT COVERAGE

YaYcon 2013
Sawachi Nijikai 2012
Comic Fiesta 2012

ANIME REVIEWS

Vassalord
Kirepapa
Okane Ga Nai
Junjou Romantica
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SPECIAL COLUMN

Got caught watching Yaoi?
Top 10 BL Anime and Pairings

FEATURED INTERVIEW

Otome's Way

Message for you

Hello everyone, it's been such a long time since my last announcement about the next issue of Aarin-Secret. I kept setting datelines for it every year since 2008 but I couldn't get it done always. There has been ups and downs in my life, personal/work and even health issues. Some people and staffs have motivated me once again to revive the project, and this time I gave myself an extra push, also thanks to a special someone.

I have to apologize for the long delay to those who submitted articles for this edition. Because of that, some of the articles here may become slightly outdated, but certain stuff have been updated and ask for resubmissions to make it more current. I also have to apologize to all the scanlation teams that have placed their free ads for this edition since 2010 submission call, every ads have some outdated info, so I am unable to include them in here anymore.

This issue may not be up to the 1st and 2nd's issue standard or your expectations, but I hope you will like it even a tiniest bit, or at least some section that may interest you.

I am not sure if there will be any more AarinSecret from now on... I will try, if there's enough interesting articles and support for it and support.

Last but not least, please support the yaoi industry by purchasing original products. It is true you can download anime and manga free from sites but you have to contribute too to keep the industry alive. All those for downloads are meant for sampling purpose only. Remember, every bit helps and can make a difference. If you don't know where to find, be sure to visit AarinFantasy Forum (www.aarin-fantasy.com/forum) to ask around where to purchase original products. There are a lot of friendly and informative people who can help you out there.

Taking this opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed to the release of this issue, the forum staff and forum members too. Love ya all for being so supportive.

Aarin~

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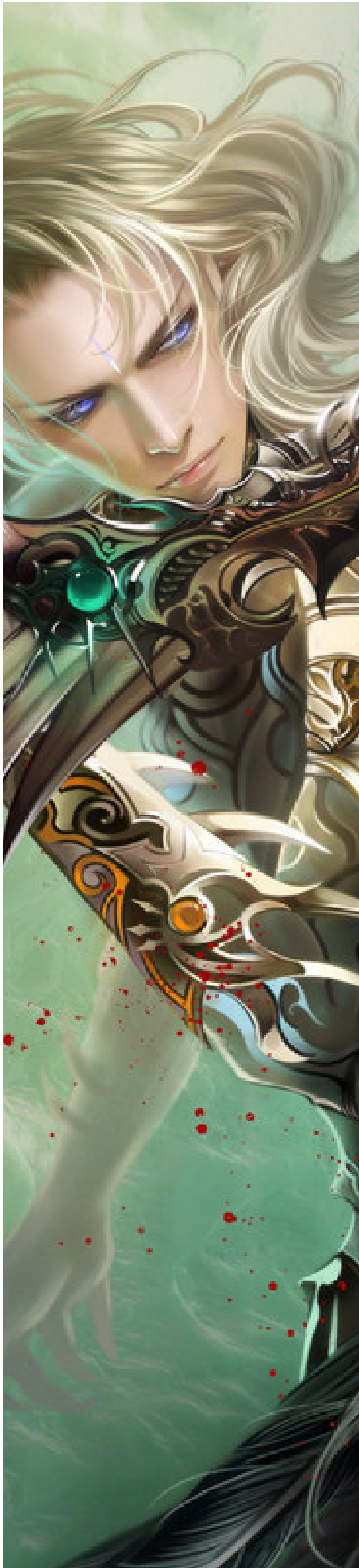


TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

Written by: MayAlex
Edited by: malary
Dated: 2008

咎狗の血

There is a common line that most Yaoi stories follow, some are plotless, or exist only for the sex, or they have strong Seme/Uke stereotypes. So if you are tired of this and would rather go for a very original and deep storylines, Togainu no Chi is definitely for you.

Originally, Togainu no Chi (translated literally as "Blood of the reprimanded hound") was a BL Game made by the softwarehouse Nitro+CHIRAL. It was first released on 2005, and a PlayStation adaptation of the game called Togainu no Chi: True Blood, was released on 29th May 2008. Unfortunately, the game is only available in Japanese (though thanks to the Translation Tools provided on the Aarinfantasy Forum one can play and understand it almost perfectly).

There are also two manga adaptations being published, one is being scanlated by Dangerous Pleasure, the other had been licensed in the United States by Tokyopop. It also comes with three Drama CDs, a Soundtrack CD, a large amount of doujinshis, artbooks, a novel adaptation and its own anime series.

THE STORY

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

The story takes place 5 years after the 3rd World War. Japan, that was almost destroyed during it, has been temporarily divided in two sides ruled by different governments, but since none of them could control it, Tokyo became a red-light district, a lawless zone where criminals take refuge.

The story begins with Akira, a young 18 years old man. He grew up as an orphan and after leaving it, he participated in a street fighting tournament called Bl@ster. The story begins with the battle that makes Akira the undefeated champion of it. Shortly after that, he is falsely charged with murder, and a mysterious woman called Ema offers him a deal.

There is another street fighting game that takes place in Toshima, an area within the former capital Tokyo. This game´s name is Igura and is organized by a drug organization, called Vischio. Unlike Bl@ster, in Igura killing is allowed. In it, each participant is given five 'dog tags', each one with poker card symbols in them. The goal is to get the other participants' tags to earn the right to challenge Il-Re, the mysterious undefeated figure that controls Vischio.

In order to avoid life imprisonment, Ema tells Akira to leave to the former capital, enter Igura and defeat Il-re. According to her, that would mean the end of Vischio and probably also the end of the division of Japan.

As he really has no choice, Akira agrees and parts to Toshima, where the story develops and branches into character routes.

THE CHARACTERS

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

Akira

The main character. He´s silent and thoughful, sometimes even described as 'empty'. He is a self-sufficient loner, and almost always acts uncaring. He finds no meaning in life, and simply lives because he doesn't particularly want to die either. He participates in Bl@ster not for fame or money, but out of boredom and his need to survive. His weapon is a military knife that he likes but doesn't remember how he got it. He´s 172cm tall, and his seiyuu is Kousuke Toriumi.

Keisuke

He grew up along with Akira in the same orphanage and they are childhood friends. As a kid, he was constantly bullied by other children and Akira defended him. Because of that, Keisuke became devoted to Akira, whom, in his own words, looks as if he were a hero. Keisuke fells in a way superior for having Akira as a friend, but Akira's talent and abilities make him feel inferior too. He is a polite, caring, shy, hardworking man. Even though he's not a strong fighter, when he finds out that Akira's leaving to Toshima, he follows him. Keisuke is 178cm tall, and his seiyuu is Tomokazu Sugita.

Shiki

He's the strongest participant in Igura. A mysterious and silent figure Akira tends to encounter him within Toshima. He is known both for his strength and for killing everyone that gets in his way, so he is obviously extremely feared by the rest of the participants. He's obsessed with practising with his katana until his swordmanship is flawless. Shiki is 188cm tall and his seiyuu is Midorikawa Hikaru.

THE CHARACTERS

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

Rin

A young boy who´s often mistaken for a girl because of his small androgynus body. He offers to help Akira and Keisuke around the town and he cheers Akira up when he's feeling down. He has a hobby which is taking pictures with a camera he always carries around. He acts cheerful and hyperactive, but as the story progresses we get glimpses of a different and darker side of his personality. Before entering Igura, he was in Bl@ster in a team which became champion. His weapons are two small daggers. Rin is 154cm tall and his seiyuu is Jun Fukuyama.

Motomi

He´s a middle-aged informer that Rin introduces to Keisuke and Akira. He doesn't participate in Igura, but resides in Toshima and gathers information about the game, and carries a gun for protection. He seems laid-back and easy going, is a heavy smoker and is always unshaven. He likes to pick on Akira, and laugh at his inexperience. Motomi is 183cm tall and his seiyuu is Kazuya Ichijou.

Arbitro

He manages the drug organization Vischio, since Il-re has never been seen. He wears a mask and talks and acts with exaggerated politeness. He has a strange fixation which involves appreciating and modifying the bodies of young attractive 'slaves' that he keeps in his castle. Arbitro is 181cm tall and his seiyuu is Kousuke Okano.

THE CHARACTERS

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

Kau

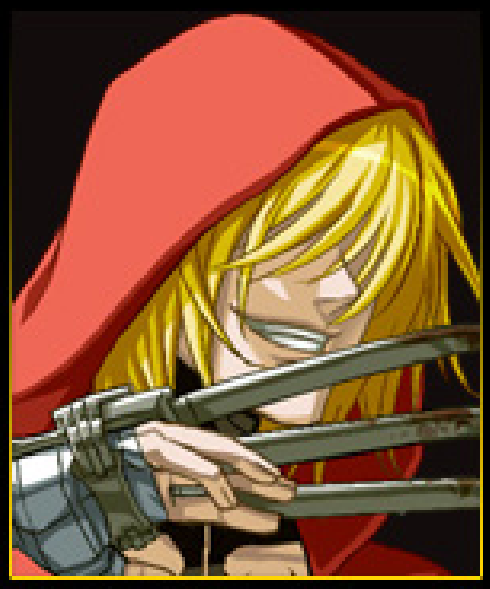
Often referred to as Inu (dog in Japanese), because his name's kanji can be read either way. A young boy that is Arbitro's favorite pet, and in his own words, 'his finest masterpiece'. He's dressed in black leather clothes, resembling a S&M attire. Arbitro removed his vocal chords and eyes, and modified his nose, so he has an extremely sensitive sense of smell, which he uses to tell the difference between real and fake dog tags in Igura.

Kiriwar

Along with Gunji, The Punishers of Igura. Their job is to execute the rule violators and to dispose of corpses, though most of the time they like to kill anything that gets on their way. Kiriwar calls his partner "Hi-yoko" (which means baby chick or brat) and his weapon is a metal pipe. He´s 200cm tall and his seiyuu is Katsuyuki Konishi.

Gunji

The other Punisher, Gunji uses knuckle claws as a weapon and calls Kiriwar 'jiji' which means 'old man'. They both work for Arbitro, whom Gunji calls 'papa'. Gunji's 195cm tall and his seiyuu is Kishou Taniyama.

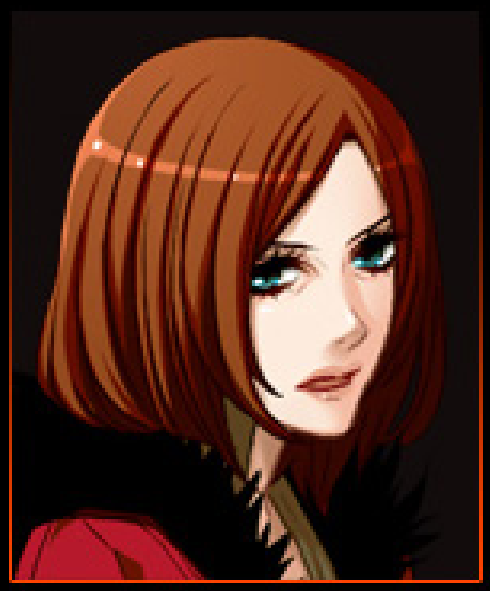


THE CHARACTERS

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

Emma & Gwen

She´s a beautiful and mysterious woman that, along with Gwen, gets Akira out of jail. Gwen always appears alongside with her and is described as a honest man with a harsh expression. Ema is 167cm tall and her seiyuu is Asako Dodo, while Gwen is 178cm tall and his seiyuu is Takuo Kawamura.



N

Wrote as 'N' but read as 'Nano'. He´s an enigmatic figure throughout the game. As the story unfolds Akira encounters him several times and feels a certain familiarity to him. He wanders around Toshima, usually speaking about philosophy and colors. Nano is 182cm tall and his seiyuu is Takumi Yamazaki.

Yukihito

He's a new character added to the PS version. He was a participant Bl@ster before being one to Igura. He grew up in the same orphanage as Akira and Keisuke, though they don't remember him.

Other Character:

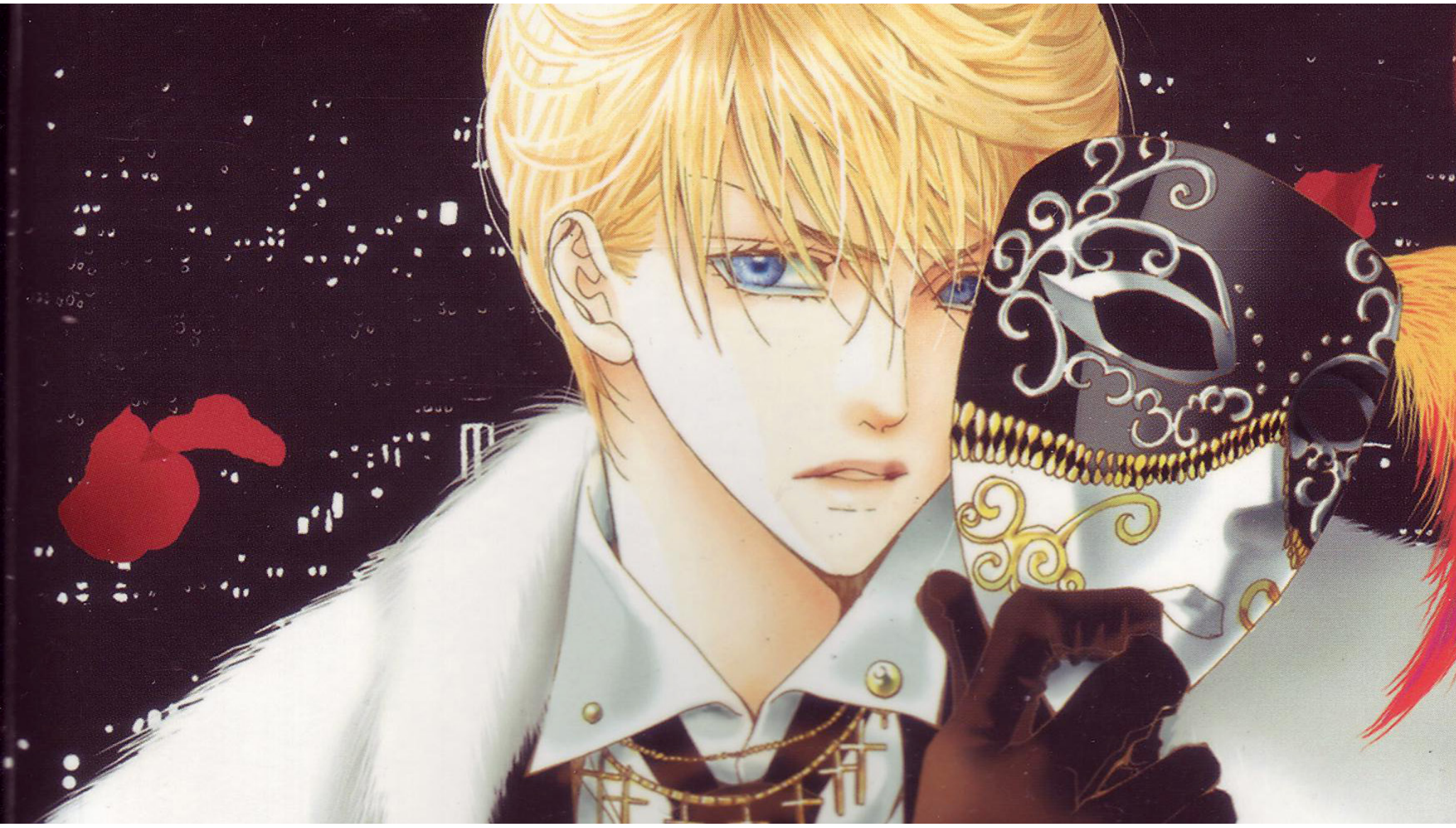
Takeru

TOGAINU NO CHI: TRUE BLOOD

OVERALL

In conclusion, Togainu no Chi has a very well written story, which deals with humanity, life, friendship, death and love in a very crude and realistic way. Although it has multiple warnings, such as non-con, gore, hints of necrophilia, violence, drugs use, and the list goes on, but if you like to read a very original, interesting, philosophical and intense story, you'll definitely fall in love with this story too.

Recommendation from AarinSecret
You can buy Togainu no Chi items from these online stores:
Amazon.co.jp
YesAsia.com
CDJapan.co.jp



Totally Captivated

Reviewed by LeLuna

Totally Captivated follows commitment-phobic Ewon Jung, a warm-hearted college student working hard to get by in life, one that has actually just become more difficult. As payback for his infidelity, Ewon is forced by ex-boyfriend Jiho into a job, working hard for no pay and no benefits. Now working for Jiho's new boyfriend, Mookyul Eun, a Mafia leader who insists he's a legitimate business man, Ewon's days are filled with enduring dangerous situations, cleaning, running errands and not to mention the more-than-just-occasional sexual harassment from Mookyul.

I first came across Totally Captivated in a comic store here, and I won't even begin to tell you how difficult it is to come across great titles in terms of manga and manhwa here. Strangely enough, when rummaging through the boxes of manga, the thing that enticed me to pick up Totally Captivated was not that I recognized it to be a BL title, but the artwork and the vivid colours of the covers that just stood out to me.

Even briefly looking through it each character leaves an impression on the reader. After some time I had gotten tired of reading manga/manhwa in which someone would show up, and I need to ask myself, 'who is this again?' due to everyone looking so similar or some of the more minor characters

so simple or without detail. Not here though; each and every person, whether a major or minor character, stood out as someone actually memorable. Whether it was details or the bit of personal style they were each given upon re-appearances you always remembered who they were. The details and symbolism in this were quite impressive; I could probably spend ten minutes decoding the cover artwork symbolism alone.

The characters in this story, either in terms of appearance or personality, all seem to be very appealing. Now if this means their personalities and appearance combined are liked or disliked, it again tends to depend on the reader. The reason for this is simple; each character is as realistic as possible, and just like real people we're forced to decide just what our views of that person are despite everything, including their faults.

"... each and every person, whether a major or minor character, stood out as someone actually memorable."

Ewon Jung is probably the most complex character, or at least the one I found most interesting when getting to know through each volume, and this is probably because like any other person there's a lot of layers to him. Ewon's warm and friendly nature makes him naturally loved by a lot of people and gives him the ability to get along with just about everyone. But even through that he doesn't let people get too close to the real him.

From a young age he learned to do everything himself, becoming independent, and learning the meaning of hard work and good education from his insistence that it will help to make him happy in the future. This attitude, although it served him well and pushed him forward in life, means that he doesn't let himself get attached to anything and doesn't fall in love; fearing that he would lose everything. So he's closed off his heart, keeping people away, keeping them from getting too close, knowing that it would hurt all the more if he did get attached, and stimulating the end of all his relationships with infidelity in hopes of getting abandoned for that reason and no other.

For me, that was something extremely impressive to find in this manhwa since when I first started reading it I didn't expect something so in-depth, with a carefully calculated difference between what Ewon says and does, versus how he feels and what he keeps to himself. The subtle details of Ewon's personality are something that you're always discovering.

Mookyul, on the other hand is quite opposite, but he's also extremely unexpected. As a natural leader he's bold and aggressive, with his quick temper intimidating everyone and keeping people and their work organized. Even though going against him would be suicide we often find that his employees truly are loyal to him for reasons other than the fact that he can scare them; he actually has a very generous and understanding side to himself. Of course this is a side of him that they had only learnt of upon devoting themselves to working well for him, but nonetheless most continue to work hard because they're able to see sides of him that he cannot show when it comes to business.

Life growing up was no harder for Ewon as it was for Mookyul, and the thing that got Mookyul through was the memory of the young boy from his elementary school that reminded him that he would never be alone and this same memory motivated him in the same way Ewon was motivated with plenty of determination to work hard. It's only after the two of them meet, and Mookyul realizes the importance of the other that things start to progress, so to speak, and that Ewon slowly learns to realize that he has always wanted someone to love, and someone to love him back.

The storyline, to me, seems to be one of the more unique ones. Most people go into mafia-related BL stories with at least a few presumptions and whether those are good things or bad things often depend on peoples tastes. Totally Captivated is not much different, but it's certainly not because it follows a mafia-BL equation. While gang-related troubles certainly do show up, this story deals most of all with the people, rather

than just the business that Mookyul is in. At its core, the story deals with its characters sorting their own lives out. Due to Ewon's fear of commitment and with Mookyul's brash and insistent attitude there's always some back and forth between the characters which can make things both complicated and exhilarating to read.

For a manhwa that can definitely deal with some very serious situations and powerful feelings, the humour in there certainly helps to keep things light at times. Even amongst the terrifying situations, the sadder or more touching moments, or the romantic ones, there's always going to be a bit of humour in there which makes the whole thing quite a laid-back read all together.

In Short:

This story keeps your heart beating fast from beginning to end with suspense, a real need to find to out what happens with hope that things will work out in some way. In the end this well-drawn and well-thought story evolves into something way more important and way more fulfilling than some other romantic comedy.

Verdict

- **Unique and detailed art style**
- **Interesting plot**
- **Well-rounded realistic characters**
- **Believable and heated chemistry**

Totally Captivated, until the end, really did leave me just that.

Sawachi Nijikai 2012

Malaysia's First BL Convention~!

Date:
17 March 2012

Venue:
Nilai College Hall

Organizer:
Sawachi Entertainment

Artwork by:
Gokunobaka

Photographs by:
Hexlord (fb.com/BlackRabbitPhotography) & AF Media Team

Report By:
Aarin

The excitement for the first BL con in Malaysia was building up quite rapidly. Due to the content of this genre is rather controversial in the country where I am from, many attendees expressed anxiety when the event had announced; but that did not deter fan's eagerness and anticipation for it. The event is called Sawachi Nijikai, promptly organized by an experienced group of people for ACG (Anime/Comics/Games) events, led by Waninoko, who is a huge BL fan.

I was unsure what to expect because it was my first time revealing myself to people as AarinFantasy. In real life I am a rather quiet person and doing that was really a big deal for me.

My first step into the venue was greeted by friendly staff members at the ticketing area. It was nerve wrecking for me as I hand them my ID card and got ushered into a small VIP waiting room. There, I met Huei Chan, a famous ACG event singer, and Pinky Lu Xun, a popular Indonesian cosplayer. I did not know about them at that time as I am new to ACG events. I was staring at Pinky for a while because her costume looked extremely familiar. The moment I spot the main neck piece and hair braid style, I went "Ah ha! That is the character from Crimson Spell!".

I entered the main event hall after criss-crossing through groups of cosplayers who were putting on makeup and prepping their costumes. First thing I saw was a very huge stage at the end of the hall that reads "Sawachi Nijikai". The entire hall was big and a few booths were seen in the middle section - selling second hand BL books, doujinshis, and also general ACG merchandises. There were small groups of people throughout the hall chattering or busy looking at the booths' items.

I manage to book an out-of-print BL manga from someone before the event, and that was all I got from her booth. Most of other BL manga were either Chinese which I don't know how to read or already have most of the English ones displayed in booths that day. Was hoping there are more titles.

An hour had passed before stage emcees greeted and welcomed everyone to the event. Two lovely emcees, Leena and Serena, were really good at what they do; always keeping the crowd entertained whenever they are on stage. While all that was happening I was looking at cosplayers and checking out the people who were drawing and writing fanfic for the event's contest. There weren't many participants but they are so absorbed in their entry piece.

Not many knew who I was after an hour or two until emcee Leena introduced me as Aarin from AarinFantasy, together with Huei Chan and kiDChan (a very talented artist) as the judges for the singing and art competition to the crowd. It was also a shame that I was too shy that I did not greet everyone properly on stage when the microphone suddenly got pointed towards me... I hope the crowd will not feel disappointed by my simple greet on stage.

Only three people participated for the singing contest and one of them who stood out is a guy who started off well enough to make the crowd wild and cheered for him. At the judging table, I realized that kiDChan registered her username in my forum as kitmun, an artist who I have been following closely for a few years!

As soon as the competition ended, I got stares and points towards me! Most of the time I can only smile; yes, I was blushing. The next thing I know, a few people walked up to me asking if I am really Aarin from AarinFantasy. I had a mini event that asked forumers to spot me for forum points. Those who did all signed my personal book for my own keeping. It was really fun to see the faces behind those names that I always see in the forum. I felt bad about not able to talk a lot with some of them as I had an appointment at the other part of the hall.

Soon I was feeling hungry; although it was already after my usual lunch time; and although they set up butler cafe with enthusiastic butlers, I excused myself and headed to a nearby place to have a quick lunch. While I was having my meal, I missed the bands that were supposed to be playing on stage! *sobs*

Fanfic competition was judged by me. There were a few good entries, good enough to make my job to choose a winner hard. At that time when I was reading those Fanfics, they were doing an interview with Pinky on stage and I could only catch a few glimpse of it, but I have a responsibility on hand so I have to miss out most of that interview. During an interval, butlers from the butler cafe entertained the crowd a bit with their unplanned BL skits on stage.

Viewfinder that was subbed by AF was played on the white projector at a corner of the hall. I can feel the disappointment from the crowd when the explicit scenes were not shown. I had it cut it off since the content is too sensitive for public viewing. Sorry!

When the cosplay competition and BL skits came up, everyone took their seats. Crowd went crazy whenever there were "BL moments" on stage. It was especially roaring when participants were doing impromptu skits, and the skit details were only given to them a few minutes before. I was invited to do the skit too but it happened so sudden that I have to skip out on that. Everyone else on stage were cosplaying male characters except for me, so I think it is weird to do a BL skit when I am not in any male character costume. My apologies to those who were expecting me to perform on stage, but hey at least I get to video record some skits for those who missed out from the crowd side!

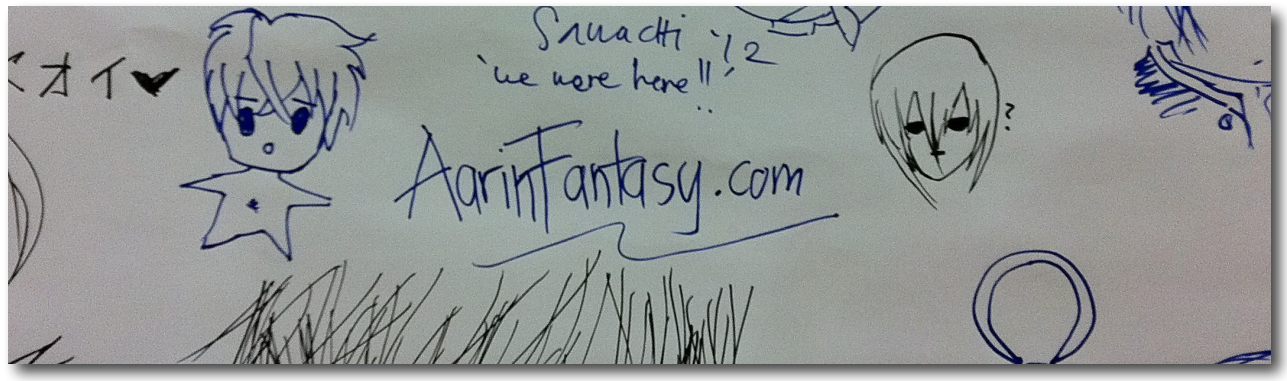
Closing Comments

This is what I personally feel about the convention:

1) I was hoping there are more titles. Was really hoping that there are more people who wants to sell their second hand BL manga, and also more choices of English titles.

2) I guess the guy who sang on stage could have won if he hasn't panic with silence for a minute there. Such a pity really, I felt he really wanted to go on singing but the sudden outburst of cheers and support for him were too overwhelming that he forgot his lines.

3) So overall, while I think it lacked participation due to the location of the place, but the small crowd really gave everyone something to cheer for or look forward to next time, for the next Sawachi Nijikai.



The crowd was entertained by comedic acts with "BL elements" by the skits.The hall broke into madness and screams were heard even louder when Xajin (who cosplayed as Sebastian from Black Butler) and Xenon (who cosplayed as Shizuo from Durarara), were randomly paired from previous cosplay, took the stage. Their skit is pure BL entertainment and just a small touch or tease by them sent the crowd screaming and wanting more. I gave them big thumbs up and applauded after that.

The event ended with prizes given out to the winners of every contest. A special prize called "best screamer in the hall" was given to a girl who wore a bright yellow shirt (aka the yellow screamer). She totally screamed her lungs out. You can tell that she wasn't afraid to show how huge of a fan she is. She is a memorable one as her friends each wore a pink and a blue shirt, all with similiar headgear; hence her nickname: the yellow screamer.

Throughout the event, there was a dakimakura (a large pillow with anime characters printed on it) that's been passing on between staff members and showed off by the emcee, saying it's a grand prize for the lucky draw's winner. It's been "molested" from top to bottom by some attendees! It seems that everyone wanted a piece of it for themselves… even me!

Altogether, the event may had started slow but the hike of the moment came when cosplay stages or any "BL moments" were displayed. The organizer did a great job keeping everything under control and ensuring nothing too explicit was showed and according to events rules.

YAYCON 2013

Back to the Future!

Date:
06 April 2013

Venue:
Icoontheater, Amersfoort, Netherlands

Photo:
aniday

Report By:
Nicolle Lamerichs
(YaYCon chairman)

Special Thanks:
Ingeborg Otte

Yaycon 2013

On April 6th 2013 the YaYCon edition "Back to the Future" was held to celebrate yaoi and yuri with special attention to science fiction. YaYCon is a Dutch convention that has hosted four editions and tries to bridge anime culture with interest in Western slash/femme slash. Every year, we have a slightly different theme that structures our events and keeps the topics fresh. We found that science fiction bridges these two fan cultures well as a common interest and shared set of tropes.

The small convention, with 500 visitors, was held in Amesfoort in Icoontheater; a charming theater venue with ample of lecture rooms. YaYCon offered various event rooms, a dealer room, a maid cafe, a game room, a karaoke room and ongoing traditional games. There was plenty of space of socializing and meeting fellow-fans. The new location was received favourably by most of the visitors and opened in a large event/artist plaza and foyer with catering. The visitors had different national backgrounds, including several Germans and even a Brazilian. The events were hosted in English to accommodate to the internationality of our visitors.

Several guests at tended the convention this year. In particular, YaYCon was very happy to receive *Hamletmachine*, the author of the popular space opera yaoi Starfighter. Thanks to her wonderful and loyal fans, who supported a small crowd funding project, she was able to fly to The Netherlands. Her delightful presence resonated with the European fans who attended her panel and stand en masse. Hamlet enticed the fans with extra sketches and information and held trivia. Several other artists also joined in. We were also happy to receive author Anne Delseit of the popular yaoi publishing company Fireangels who lectured on "Germanga" (German manga). Moreover, Nina Nowacki of Fireangels and the webcomic Young Prophets provided a drawing workshop.

Yaycon 2013

YaYCon offered an elaborate workshop and lecture track in separate rooms. The workshops included papercraft, lucky charms crafting, amigurumi, manga drawing and a "build your own star ship!" contest, amongst others, given by active crafters from the Dutch fan scene. The lecture track was also fully booked with topics as cosplay acting by the Dutch World Cosplay Summit contestants of 2012. Moreover, K-Pop news was provided by internet magazine Kome while another lecturer offered tips and tricks for figurine collection. Another pride and joy was the slash studies panel which included Nele Noppe from the Catholic University of Leuven who discussed Avatar fandom and fan activism.

An AMV competition and cosplay competition gave fans the opportunity to show their skills in the theater. Moreover, we hosted an auction for charity, the profits of which were donated to Meer dan Gewenst: a society that instructs LGBT parents who want to have children.

"YaYCon is a specialized convention that celebrates feminist fiction in an equal space"

YaYCon is a specialized convention that celebrates feminist fiction in an equal space. As an anime convention, we stick to yaoi and yuri. Having these specific interest also means that within The Netherlands, where anime fandom is not that big altogether, we only draw a limited amount of visitors. If you're interested in attending a yaoi and yuri convention abroad, this may be your convention though! The atmosphere is relaxed and there are plenty of opportunities to attend a good event or have a chat! We keep it focussed and all events are in English so that everyone can participate freely. This also means that we are able to draw guests that are from different language cultures than our own. We hope that we see you next year! The new theme will be announced late May!

Comic Fiesta 2012

Aarinfantasy's first official coverage of Malaysia's largest Anime convention and AF members meet up!

Date:
21 & 22
December 2012

Venue:
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia

Organizer:
CF Team

Report By:
Aarin

Comic Fiesta 2012 is an anime, comics and games event held annually in Malaysia. I was excited to be able to register my media team in... With the objective of covering BL related things and happenings. The other purpose is of course going for the planned AarinFantasy forum members' mini gathering during the convention.

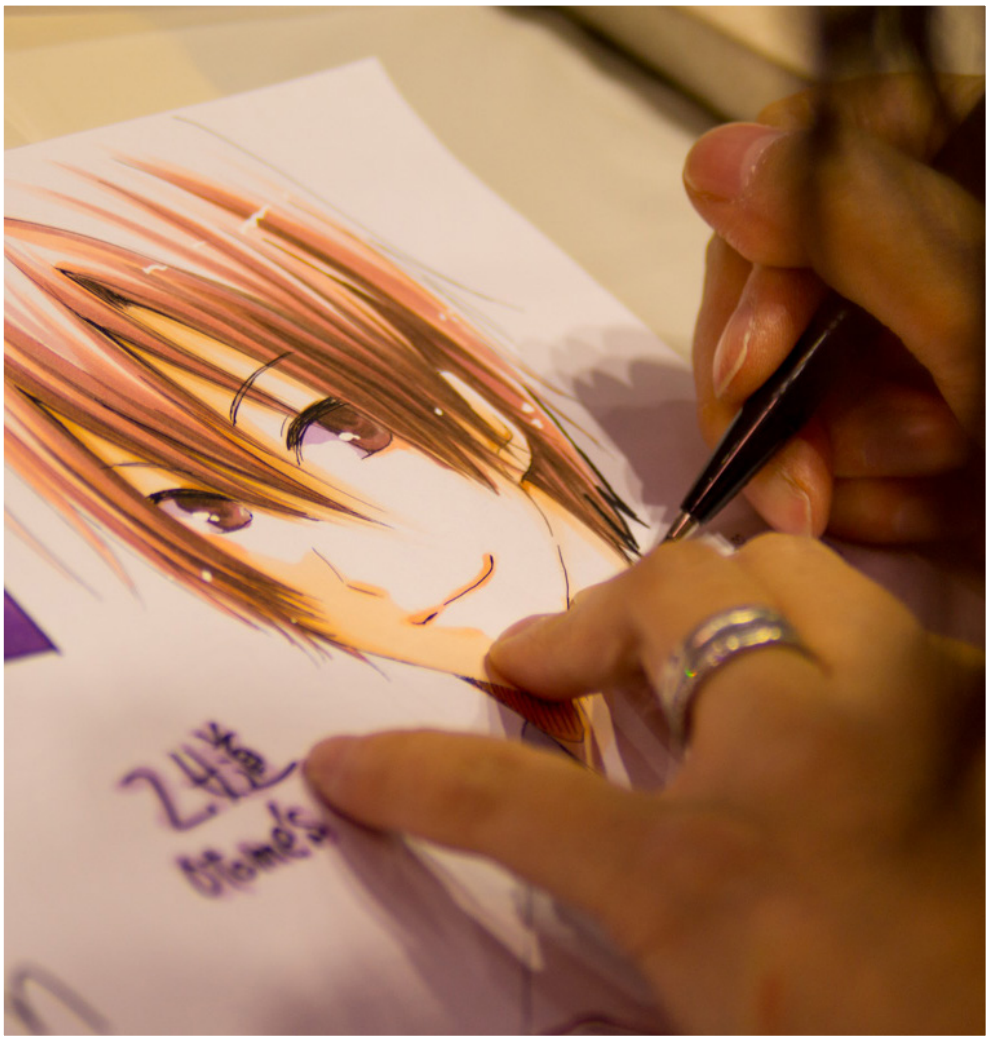
The event ran for 2 full days... I was there early and manage to catch an hour of preparation before the big door opens for the crowd that has been building up since early morning. People are holding up umbrellas and waiting patiently to go in despite the scorching sun. Cosplayers can be seen preparing themselves and showing off their styles and costumes to passerby and curious onlookers.

There were long lines of commercial and also independent booths in the huge convention hall. At the end of the hall is a stage set up nicely for bands and activities for the rest of the day. The mood was quite intense, everyone was so busy preparing and running around for some last minute preparations.

I was pretty much hyped up when I get to see kiDChan again! Unlike in Sawachi Nijikai 2012, this time she is selling her artwork. Her works are beautiful and eccentric. Some of her artwork contains BL elements in them. I bought some art books from her and get her to autograph them!

(Above) A black and white piece by kiDChan

One outstanding booth that totally captured my attention, and yes of course my main purpose for being there, was a corner booth which was displaying some quite explicit yaoi pictures. I immediately got near the booth and stared at some pictures in admiration, there were various yaoi merchandise on the table such as doujin, stickers, postcard sized pictures and lots more. We started taking some photographs, when a Japanese man from the booth came up to us and asked if I like yaoi. My mind was like "Hoho, you have no idea..." The man is actually the producer for that booth called Otome's Way, his name is Heyta Azuma. He introduced two people at the booth to us; Yumiko Akeba (spokesperson and translator) and Ai Yusura (artist). To be honest, I could not imagine Ai Yusura who has such a cute and sweet innocent looking face to be someone who can draw yaoi and with such explicitness.

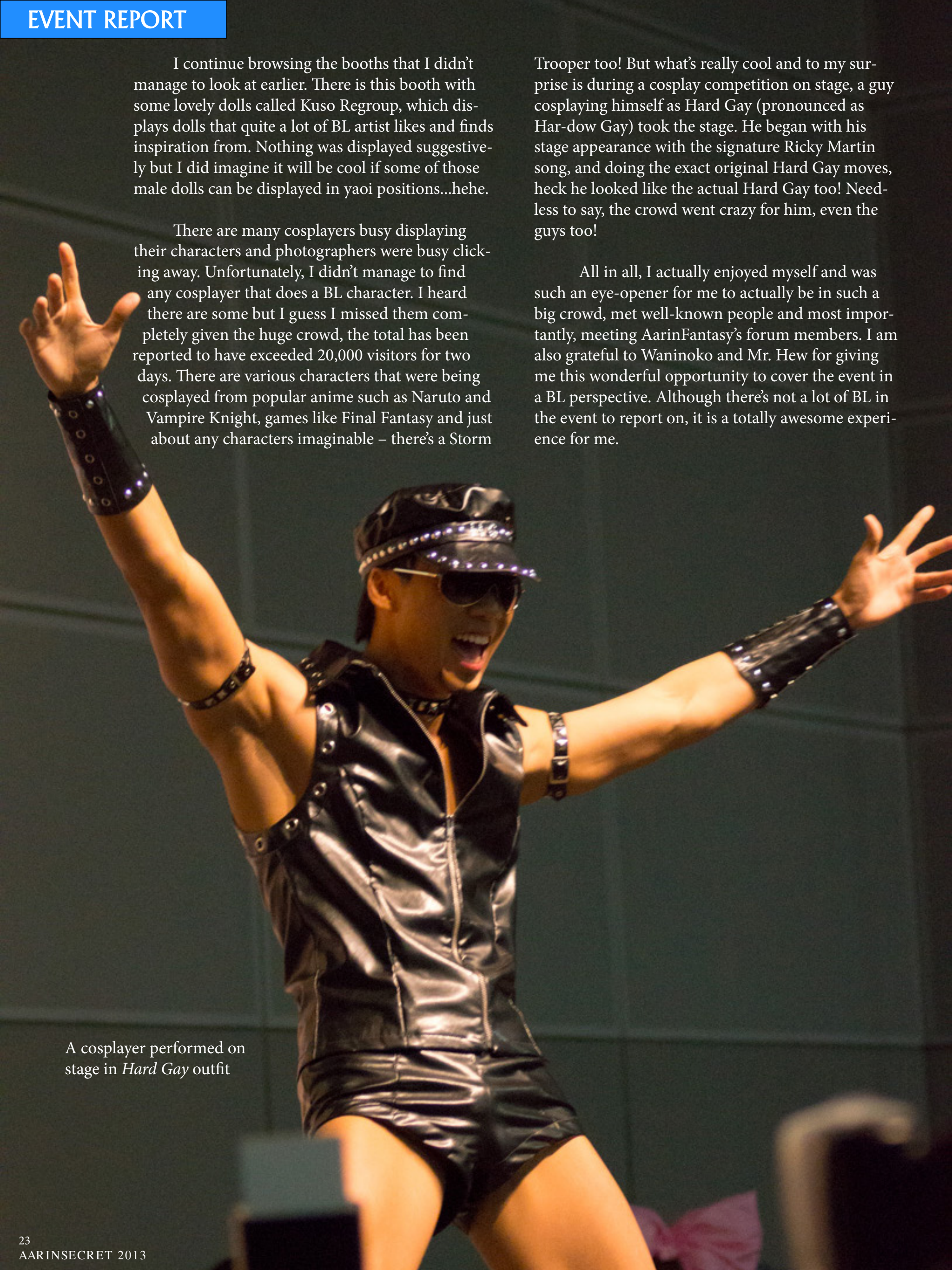


Then I looked up at a big digital clock on the wall and saw that it is time for the doors to open. I was heading towards it and registration area, when suddenly I saw people swarmed towards the main hall. It was total madness but at least the event committee has done great job in controlling the crowd. The first madness came from the queue line of Danny's Choo commercial booth; he is famous for bringing Japan's culture to the world. His booth is selling his self-creation Mirai merchandise especially the 'Touch n Go' card exclusively for Malaysia. His father Jimmy Choo, world renowned shoe designer, came too to show his support. Later on, I managed to attend a short interview with Danny Choo and we exchanged cards. He took a look at it and asked "Ohh yaoi?" and smiled. The media team did ask him in the midst of the interview if he likes yaoi. Not surprising he said no, but he did mention that there is quite a bit of market for the ladies in Japan when it comes to yaoi. Besides Danny, there are also various guests in the event such as redjuice (of Guilty Crown fame) and Bless4.

I continue browsing the booths that I didn't manage to look at earlier. There is this booth with some lovely dolls called Kuso Regroup, which displays dolls that quite a lot of BL artist likes and finds inspiration from. Nothing was displayed suggestively but I did imagine it will be cool if some of those male dolls can be displayed in yaoi positions...hehe.

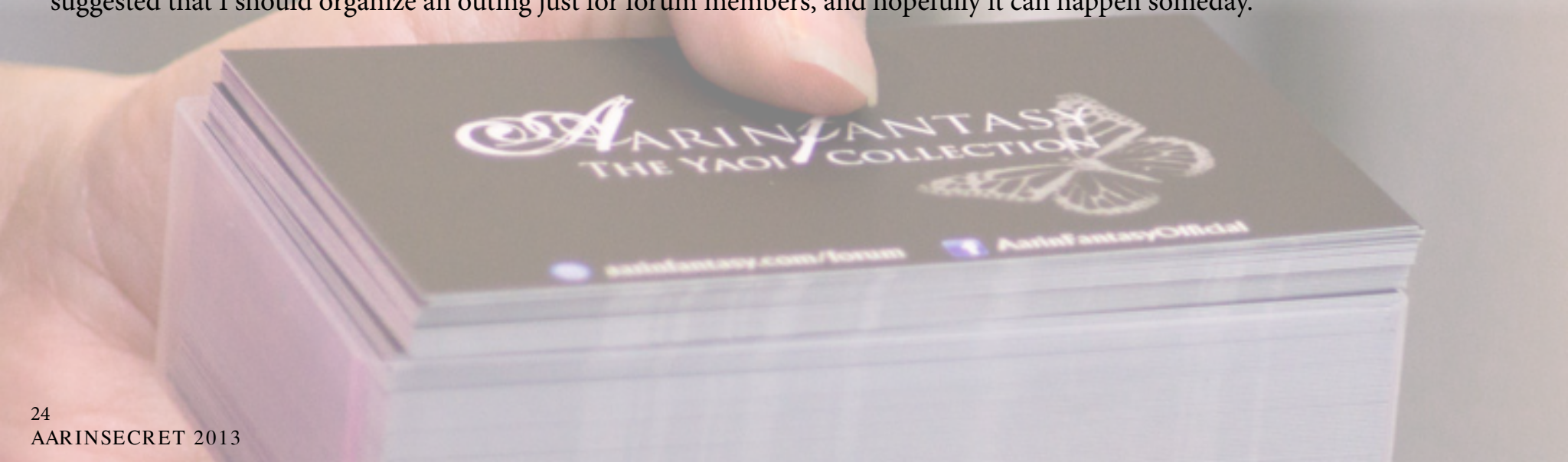
There are many cosplayers busy displaying their characters and photographers were busy clicking away. Unfortunately, I didn't manage to find any cosplayer that does a BL character. I heard there are some but I guess I missed them completely given the huge crowd, the total has been reported to have exceeded 20,000 visitors for two days. There are various characters that were being cosplayed from popular anime such as Naruto and Vampire Knight, games like Final Fantasy and just about any characters imaginable – there's a Storm Trooper too! But what's really cool and to my surprise is during a cosplay competition on stage, a guy cosplaying himself as Hard Gay (pronounced as Har-dow Gay) took the stage. He began with his stage appearance with the signature Ricky Martin song, and doing the exact original Hard Gay moves, heck he looked like the actual Hard Gay too! Needless to say, the crowd went crazy for him, even the guys too!

All in all, I actually enjoyed myself and was such an eye-opener for me to actually be in such a big crowd, met well-known people and most importantly, meeting AarinFantasy's forum members. I am also grateful to Waninoko and Mr. Hew for giving me this wonderful opportunity to cover the event in a BL perspective. Although there's not a lot of BL in the event to report on, it is a totally awesome experience for me.



A cosplayer performed on stage in *Hard Gay* outfit

On Day 1, the hallway was so congested; it confused some people to spot or meet up with me. But Day 2 went on a lot smoother. Nevertheless, I am extremely happy to be able to meet the forum members that I've met before at Sawachi Nijikai event back in March 2012, and met new faces too. Totally unexpected was a scream from across the hall when they saw me, and it caught attention of another person followed them and found me. As always, I like to keep a book of souvenir so I asked them to sign my book. We chatted a bit and took individual and group photos, and some even exchanged hugs! I gave each of them my AarinFantasy name card that has my BL sketch art on it. The BL manga giveaway went well too, though not everyone gets it but I am glad everyone enjoyed and got excited when we talked about yaoi , the forum and shared which booths sell BL items. Some suggested that I should organize an outing just for forum members, and hopefully it can happen someday.



Thank you
for the wonderful
memories
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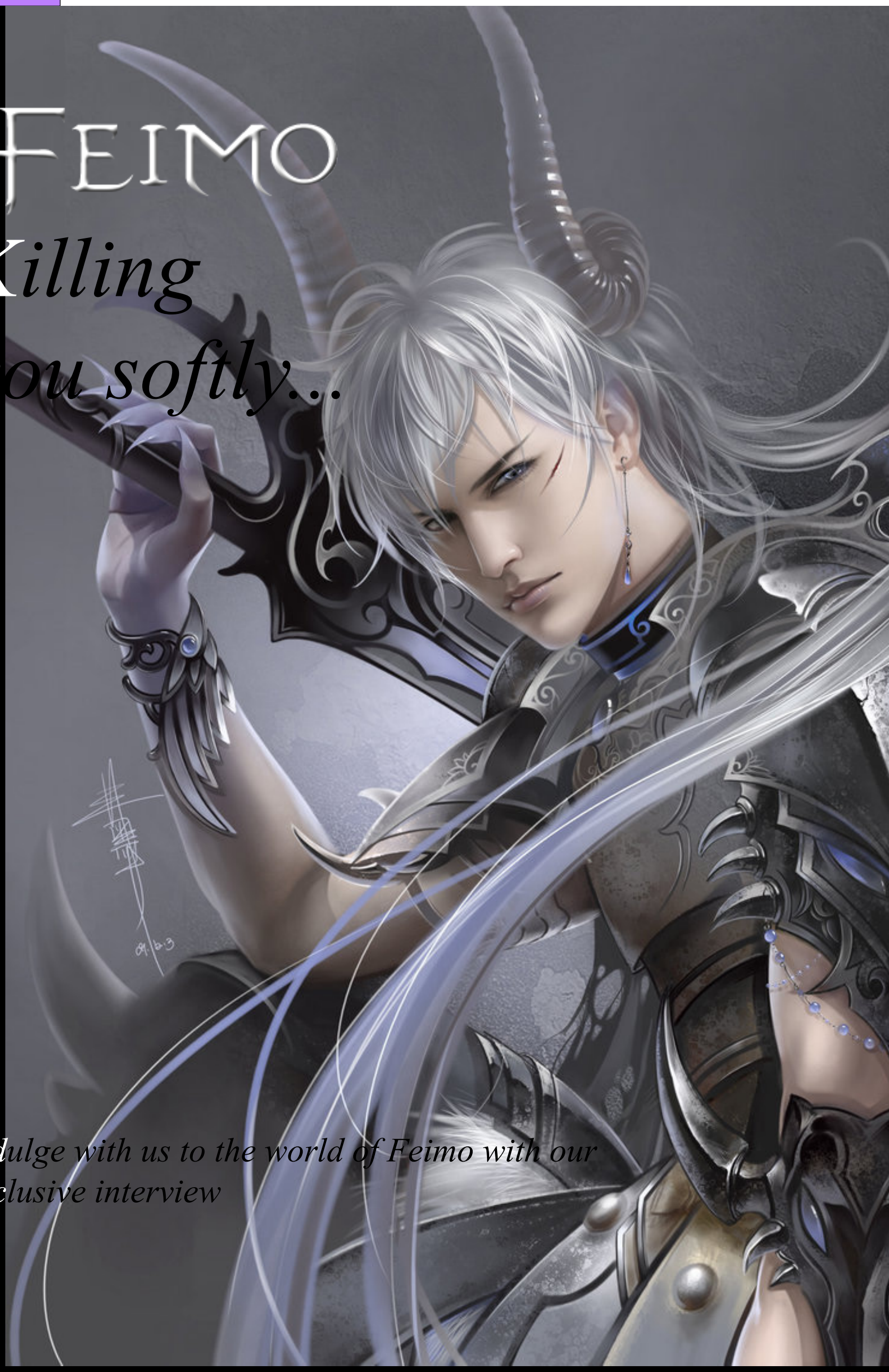
YAOI



Killing you softly...

Indulge with us to the world of Feimo with our exclusive interview

Name: Feimo
Nickname: Panda
Age: 20s
Gender: Female
Country: China
Language: Chinese, Japanese
Hobbies: Going on tour, sleeping, reading books, drawing, playing games, fishing, photographing, researching on ancient culture of various countries

Known for her elegant & pretty characters, Feimo has established a huge fanbase among the BL community. I was lucky to be able to interview her through Chinese translators...

Q At what age did you begin drawing and what was it that got you started? Is it a natural talent you developed or did you study at an art school?

I've started drawing since elementary school. Probably because I've liked drawing since I was born, I feel as if I want to drawing anything I encounter.

Q What's your inspiration for drawing?

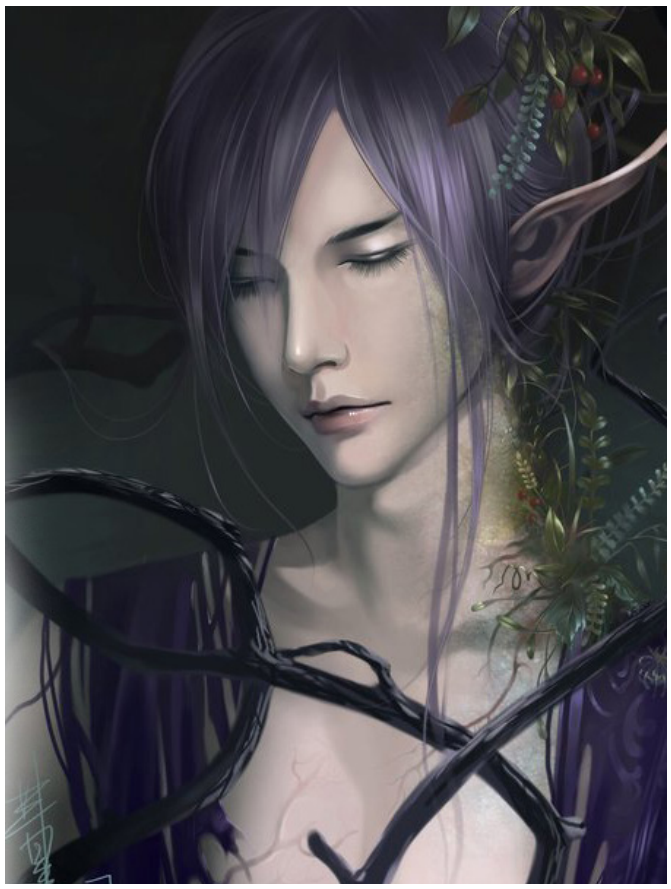
Everywhere. Things you come across all the time that will give you surprises.

Q I understand that BL isn't your main genre, but there are a few suggestive pieces. Will you be drawing more of those? I know many BL fans would be very happy about this.

I will, most likely. I like that kinda ambiguity between boys, haha.

Q Your artwork mostly features good looking men which I know is your favorite subject... but do you also draw other subjects?

Yes, but seldom. The reason is I don't have many chances to draw other things. Actually I like drawing dragons or beasts.



Q Is there someone you look up to when it comes to art?

I admire those who are better than me. It'll be scary to list them out since there are so many experts out there. (Sweats)

Q What kind of media do you use for your artwork?

A PC and a Wacom 440 tablet, and the software I use is Painter 6. Occasionally I'll adjust the color by using Photoshop.

Q Your artwork is also amazingly true to the details of clothing and accessories. Where did/do you get the inspiration for them?

As indicated by my preferences... by studying ancient histories of various countries.

Q Your artworks display characters in some amazing poses. Do you use models for those poses or are they modelled after anyone?

Yes, I find models to help me with some actions that are harder to work out, but I always seek for their consent before doing so. I don't feel like commenting on that accusation.

Q Where do you think your art will lead you?

My dream is to run a host club.

Feimo

Q Is this just a hobby for you or your profession? If it's a hobby, what's your actual profession?

My job is drawing. Haha… That's why I'm happy.

Q Besides your artwork, there are also some other things fans want to know about. Do you speak English or do you use translation tools as means of help?

I can't speak English. My friends help me translate.

Q Before concluding this interview, are there any words you want to address to your fans out there?

Mmm… Be sure to buy my portfolio. (gets beaten up by the crowd)

Thanks so much for the interview Feimo! I hope you will draw more wonderful artwork and stay true to your style.

"Do you like what you saw? Wanna add her artwork as part of your collection?

Be sure to check out Feimo's art gallery or her blog then! In case you missed it, the websites URL is located at the last page of the interview.

You can purchase her illustration book and prints from there. If you can read and understand Chinese, I suggest you purchase from her site directly. Otherwise, go to her Deviantart page to buy it through her friend.

It's been a while since I last spoken to Feimo, so be sure to say you have read AarinSecret when you buy from her! No, I don't get any commission at all but I wanted her to know that she has international and BL fans too... so she can draw us more BL characters! hehe

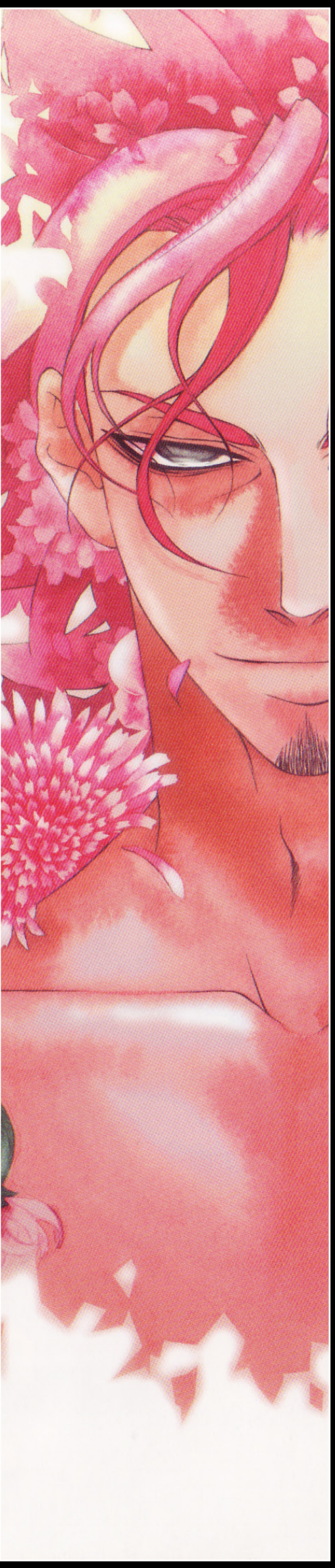
Remember to support your fav artist always!" - ***Aarin***

Deviantart page maintained by Feimo's friend (English): http://feimo.deviantart.com/
Feimo's personal blog featuring her artwork (Chinese): http://weibo.com/feimo

Vassalord. OVA REVIEW by stormwolf2010

The Vassalord OVA is a 28 minute anime based on the manga by Chrono Nanae (Peacemaker Kurogane, Senki Senki Momotama). It was included with the Animate Limited Edition version of the 7th, and final, *tankubon* of the manga that was released in March. When I heard last year that they were making an OVA for one of my favourite manga, I was so excited, but also sad because the series was ending. I was really looking forward to seeing it, and I was not disappointed!

Vassalord.



For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of reading the manga (and why not!? Go and read it right this instant! ~_^), it follows the lives and adventures of Johnny Rayflo, an openly gay vampire from the middle ages, and his vassal Charles J Chrishunds (aka Chris, Cherry), a vampire/cyborg who works as a vampire hunter for the Vatican.

Rayflo loves Chris, and Chris is constantly fighting a battle between his desire for his master, and his devotion to God and his faith. You could say that the blood-sucking is used as a stand-in for sex, and believe me some of the blood-sucking scenes in the manga are hotter than actual sex scenes!

For some reason this series is classed as josei, despite the fact that it has very strong (and obvious) shōnen-ai undertones. Apparently Chrono-sensei was planning on writing a yaoi manga and asked one of her friends what they thought of yaoi. The friend said something along the lines of "yaoi is gross", so we ended up with a watered-down version, lol.

The OVA faithfully follows the plot of the first chapter of the manga, pretty much panel by panel if you read it at the same time. There are some additions, which still fit into the plot quite well, and the only thing that seems to be missing is the toe-sucking scene, much to the disappointment of fans.

It is animated by Production IG, best known for Ghost in the Shell, Patlabor, xxxHolic, and the animated sequence in Quentin Tarantino's Kill Bill Vol. 1. As can be expected of such a well-known company, the animation is flawless and highly detailed. Despite the fact that it is set mostly at night, there are no issues with the visuals, and everything is clear and crisp. The fight scenes, thought short, are especially well done.

The seiyuu mostly reprise their roles from the drama CDs. Rayflo is voiced by Keiji Fujiwara (Shiro Fujimoto (Ao no Exorcist), Maes Hughes (Fullmetal Alchemist), Village Chief (Arakawa Under the Bridge)) and Chris by Ryōtarō Okiayu (K (Gravitation), Shigure Souma (Fruits Basket), Scar (Fullmetal Alchemist), and Byakuya Kuchiki (Bleach)), and they are perfectly suited to their characters.

The only seiyuu I didn't like is Princess Marie's, although she is growing on me with repeated viewings. The voice just seems a little too immature in places for the character. The inclusion at the beginning of a French speaking seiyuu for Chris as a child was a nice touch, as in the manga it is never really specified where he and Rayflo actually come from, simply saying somewhere in
Europe.

The music is wonderful. It is quite different to the music found in most anime; most of it wouldn't be out of place in a church, and perfectly suits the gothic and melancholic tone of the story.

In conclusion, the OVA captures the spirit of the manga perfectly. From Chris' despair at falling further and further away from his god, to the comedic moments between him and Rayflo, it's all there. We can only hope that they will extend the OVA into a full series in the future.

Much thanks to Aarin for inviting me to write this review, and also to her and her team for subbing the OVA <3

Otome's Way

LAUNCHING THEIR WEB STORE IN APRIL, **OTOME'S WAY** AIMS TO PROVIDE BL FANS AROUND THE WORLD TO EXPERIENCE A ROBUST LIBRARY OF PROMISING YAOI TITLES FROM TALENTED JAPANESE ARTISTS.

We're honored to be able to have the representative of Otome's Way, Yumiko Akeba, to accept our interview for this issue of AarinSecret.

Q Hello Yumiko, on behalf of all of us from Aarinfatasy's community, I'd like to thank you for spending your time for our interview. So let's start by telling us about yourself and Otome's Way.

Hello Aarin. I'm so honored to be here to have your interview. My name is Yumiko and I'm originally from Osaka, Japan. Since I was a child I've always been crazy about manga and grown to write BL novels. I'm an author and producer, as well as PR at Otome's Way. Otome's Way is an online digital manga distribution site that specializes in original Boy's Love (or "BL") content. In addition to English and Japanese translations of the titles we produce, Otome's Way is also developing uniquely interactive web-based stories/comics that include such features as sound effects, colorization, and animation. Although we are based in Tokyo, we make oversea appearances at various international conventions such as Comic Fiesta in Malaysia.

Q What inspired the founding of Otome's Way?

Otome's Way was founded in 2012 to promote Japanese BL or Yaoi manga to the international markets. BL is already popular outside Japan and internationally recognized. However, we notice that there are so many non-Japanese readers craving for more English-translated works, and it's not so easy to get Japanese BL manga outside Japan. Otome's Way is established to convey Japanese BL manga to those overseas fans.

Q How many artists are working behind all the works in the store?

Right now, we have about 10 authors and more to come in a few months.

Q Please tell us more about the styles of the artists.

Yusura Ai, who attended Comic Fiesta 2012 is working on her new manga series "Rensou", which is about Kabuki, a traditional Japanese dance drama. Her drawing style ranges from cute or "kawaii" to cool and sexy. ruz is a popular web-manga artist in Japan whose site has had over a million hits. She's good at stylish, cool beauty characters with urban air. Amamiya Kei is also a well-known web-manga author and illustrator. She's good at color drawings and her sophisticated characters have gained overwhelming popularity.

Q How do you find BL fans outside of Japan? And how is it different from Japanese fans?

I find BL fans in Malaysia are so energetic and passionate! In Japan, many of BL fans are more introverts but here they are so outgoing and friendly, which I think is great. Also, I've noticed that BL events here are quite different from those in Japan. We do not really interact with other fans so much. We just go there to browse the booths, buy dojinshi, and go home. So it's more fun here to see many cosplayers engaging in activities. Very nice!

Q What is your next step in promoting Otome's Way and its works to international

Well, we will add more titles, of course. Currently, we're just a small group, but we are hoping to gain some footing and expand into large markets.We plan to continue promoting our site internationally and hope to visit major ACG events in America, Europe and Asia.

Junjou Romantica

wawayaya: Fans of Shungiku Nakamura's manga, Junjou Romantica won't be disappointed by its anime which conveys the dilemmas three sets of lovers face: coming to terms with their histories, sexuality, and age differences. The anime is actually superior to the manga. The art is neater and the characters actually look normal. Since the story line closely mirrors the manga, none of the charm in the dialog is lost. All divergences enrich the characterization, such as the vignette on Usami and Hiroki's childhood that was only alluded to in the manga. The voice actors are first rate. Hikaru Hanada who provides the voice for the suave Usami oozes sex appeal. Any criticism of the anime, is also attributable to the manga: particularly the sometimes tenuous plot, and at best, average artwork.

Jade Phoenix: A light-hearted comedy revolving around the relationships of three different sets of lovers. The first one revolves around Misaki Takahashi and his suddenly turned upside-down life after he meets the famous author and his brother's friend, Akihiko Usami. The other two couples are introduced as Egoist and Terrorist, in accordance with their respective stories. The voice actors do enough justice to their characters, even though the characters themselves have not been that well drawn. The plot keeps jumping from one couple to another but is overall okay to deal with. Misaki's hilarious monologues and Miyagi's incessant teasing and flirting were the only things I enjoyed. Worth watching once but I won't recommend a second time.

wawayaya	Jade Phoenix	Xephia
8	6	8

The Good: Great voice actors. Stay true to the manga.
The Bad: Confusion in characters. Cliche plot.

Xephia: Junjou Romantica is still one of today's most popular yaoi anime series, and justifiably so. The main theme of the series is first love, and it follows three stories revolving around six main male characters. Each pair is completely different, making the series attractive to any yaoi fan, regardless of specific taste. It's a romantic comedy, and unlike many similar series, the humor is actually there and doesn't just make the viewers cringe with embarrassment. While some of the characters start off a little, if not a lot, cliche, I'm happy to say that they do develop as the story progresses. We get insight into their thoughts, their histories and their emotions. While they still remain a little predictable at times, they have enough depth to make them believable. There are, however, a few things that let the anime down. The character design is one of them. while I, personally, quite liked the art, I found that many of the characters looked similar and that more time seems to have been spent on the younger characters. The music in a lot of places seems to be overused or underdone, especially in the emotional scenes, and sometimes the plot seems a little too coincidental. While it isn't flawless, Junjou Romantica is still an incredible anime and definitely worth watching. The plot is heart warming, the characters lovable and art attractive.

Okane Ga Nai

Catylyrn: "Stockholm syndrome" plot inside (aka rape and abduction that end up in pure love). Young Ayase (small, blond, blue-eyed with the common sense of a goldfish and preternatural altruism) ends up in deep trouble, being sold into sexual slavery and abuse to pay off his irresponsible brother's debts. Comes to the "rescue" Kanou, the oh-so-dark, cold and mysterious Yakuza Ayase once unknowingly took out of the rain when he was down on his luck, but Ayase's amnesia prevents him from remembering. But because (bad yaoi logic) he's in love with Ayase, Kanou won't let him go and wants him to pay off his debt through having forced sex with him until hens have teeth, performing in smut movies, etc... or until he remembers the time when they first met. My giant peeve, is the huge dimorphism between Kanou and Ayase. While it's a habit in most yaoi to distinguish Seme and Uke by their size and general manliness, here it goes frankly overboard. The uke is supposed to be in his first years at University but he looks and sounds like... 14 year old at most ? Tastes like shota for hypocrits and a bad Viewfinder parody.

Keita4ever: Okane Ga Nai aka No Money is a four part OVA series that spans the first 2 manga vols. Even from the onset, the great opening theme sets the tone for the great ova that follows. However, a warning this series is among the harder yaoi titles available so it is not for everybody. Aside from the great art, it is the excellent casting chose them makes this series shine. Jun Fukuyama's skill emulates Ayase's innocence and vulnerability and Juurouta Kosugi as Kanou, a ruthless gangster like financial manager is very believable. Additionally, thanks to the wonderful side characters they add humour and heart warming to this series.

Catylyrn	Keita4ever	lovecherry
1	6	7

The Good: Nice plot and story.
The Bad: Pales in comparison to the manga.

lovecherry: Most manga to anime transitions end up in disaster with firm recommendations to stick to the manga. The difference with Okane ga Nai is that there are quite a few reasons to give the anime a go. Firstly and most important is that the sex scenes, although aren't graphic, also aren't glossed over and there is an attempt to make them rather sensual meaning you can at least tell what is happening! Another is how Ayase is portrayed considering that a strong criticsm of the manga is that he looks too young despite his age, the anime keeps the wide eyed and innocent look but somehow is able to make Ayase look over 18. Kanou-san's voice is deep, fantastic for the seme, but unfortunately there seems to be something rather wrong with his proportions, his head is too small for his body and this can sometimes ruin the mood if he is shown at the wrong angle. The twins are also done justice as well as Someya, the voices and the look just seem to match. The only other flaw would be that sometimes moments can be delayed and it feels like you are watching the anime in slow motion. Overall, the manga turned into anime OVA's has been a great success, sticking to the manga perfectly, moving at a decent pace, portraying the characters well and most importantly, not skimping too much on the sex.

Kirepapa

fenrirkhan: Chisato Takatsukasa, a famous novelist and the eponymous "kirepapa", suffers from what can only be described as a son-complex. As a matter of fact, he tends to go berserk when his son Riju brings friends home and is rather creative when it comes to chasing away those he is convinced are after poor Riju's chastity. However, one of these friends, Shunsuke Sasaki, is not as easily deterred as the others. But is it really Riju he is after? Throw in some literary-world intrigue and high-strung drama into the mix and you get an anime that is rather enjoyable if you like the whole young and forceful seme/older and cute uke trope. All in all, Kirepapa, is nothing to write home about: the characterization is shallow at best, some of the plot devices make very little sense, conflict is brought up and resolved very quickly (which is to be expected considering the time allotted). What's more, the characters' skins look a little too shiny/waxy/latex-y for comfort. Which is not to say that I would not watch more if given the occasion. I'd actually like to see more of Riju who seems like a rather well-rounded character... no mean feat when you consider the fact that his father's idea of fun is spiking his friends' snacks with laxatives!

silvananoir: The overprotective yet beautiful father, the adorable 'naive' son, and his wolf of a friend. Kirepapa is a mix of cliche and humor. There are moments of laughter at the father's antics at protecting his son's virtue. And at his complete lack of self awareness/fear of his desirability. The art style is lovely, but the content itself is lacking. The main problem is that this anime is 29 minutes to short. There's a lot more going on underneath with these characters, but with the time limit none of that is explored, and can leave one unsastified. All in all, it's cute, charming, fun and hot. But if your a fan of the manga than it's more bittersweet. My recommendation? Read the manga. But it's a watch if you want a taste.

fenrirkhan	silvananoir	Winterine
3	6	8

The Good: Funny and beautiful artwork.
The Bad: Felt rushed and too short.

Winterine: It's pretty clear from early on in this anime that it is a light and fluffy comedy, what with the sparkles, limited music and the tendency for horns to sprout from the head of a certain character. Sakurai Takahiro does a very sexy Shunsuke, the one friend of Riju's that Chisato has not been able to drive off even after several years It turns out that Shunsuke, whilst genuinely being a good friend of Riju, had ulterior motives for regularly coming over to visit Riju… Kirepapa is funny and altogether too short. We see why Chisato is so paranoid for Riju, and things get complicated when Shunsuke's father is introduced. That a confident 15-year old is actively pursuing a man nearly twice his age is entertaining, as well as Chisato – the anime's "beautiful papa" – and his various emotional extremes. The anime may leave you wanting to more backstory and the history between the main characters. It ends too conveniently, where everything works out just right for nearly everyone, again leading to the feeling of the anime being too rushed. The second OVA is about to be released, and hopefully it will build upon what we already know. As a one-shot, Kirepapa is short and sweet, and certainly worth watching.

Ikoku Irokoi Romantan

Tsuneko: The first thing that stunts me in Ikoku Irokoi Romantan is the quality of the drawing and how faithful to reality they were. The attention given to all the little details turns the anime into something quite realistic, showing us a slice of life of two gorgeous characters. The parallelism between the two men underlines how exotic the story is, automatically enhancing the romantic aspect of it. It is sweet despite the overrated cliché of the hero saving the endangered loved-one because the psychology of them both is pushed further than just that. I was pleased by the plot and how it develops; I think I will actually read the manga now!

CrisNoWait: What can I say I love it! Now I cannot compare it to the manga version, I will do my best to be objective. The graphic art as a whole breathtaking, along with the intriguing scenery tasteful and appropriate. This story is wonderfully romantic, Alberto continues his pursuit of Ranmaru, a recently married Japanese male, who likes to wear a kimono, on his honeymoon to Italy. Naturally he attracts lots of attention and his good looks do not help in that regard. He attracts the wrong element and ends up kidnapped and held for ransom to the highest bidder. It is up to Al to save him before it's too late for the unguarded although volatile tempered, Ranmaru. For the romantic in all of us this is a must see anime, that will make you laugh and blush at the same time. The sex scenes, are tastefully done and do not predominate the emotional complexity for this story.

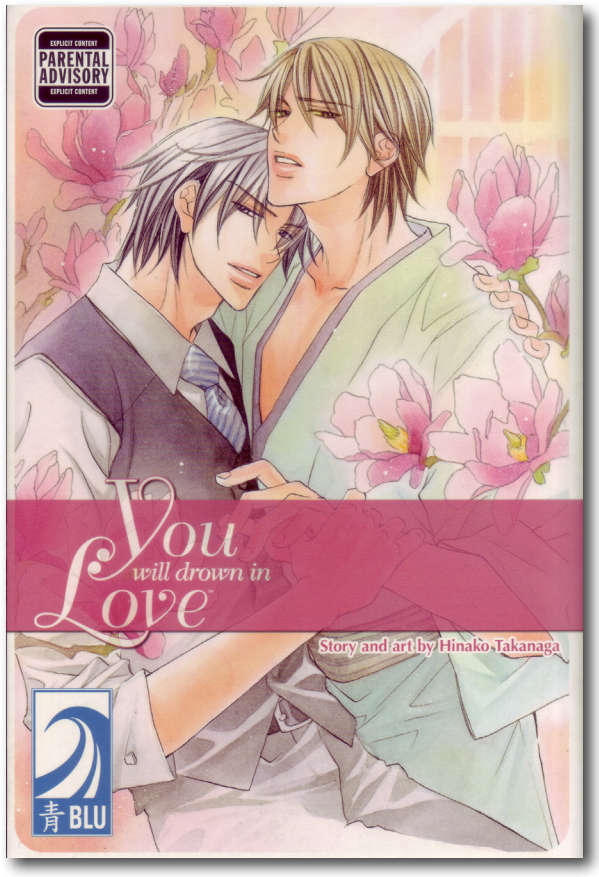
Tsuneko	CrisNoWait	xUsuratonkachix
9	9	9

The Good: Beautiful artwork with interesting characters.
The Bad: Only two short OVAs!

xUsuratonkachix: Ayano Yamane's Ikoku Irokoi Romantan, or The Romantic Tale of a Foreign Love Affair, revolves around the lascivious adventures of the feisty Yakuza clan heir Ranmaru away on his honeymoon in Italy but not before being forced to marry his bride on a lush cruise liner. However, the arranged marriage's success is quickly tossed overboard and the poor kimono clad Ranmaru ends up sharing his wedding night with the sexy blonde Japanese obsessed captain Al after a few drinks and many ogles at the infamous fundoshi. The anime holds true to the original manga's storyline, even throwing in a few extra scenes to add a comical edge. Yamane's unique and gorgeous art style is portrayed well, except for a few out of port potion shots of the main characters which are hardly noticeable as most fans with be joining Al in drooling over Ranmaru. Each character's newly given voice is precise and nicely adds to the overall charm and appeal of Yamane's lovely creations. Although it would have been nice to see the last parts of the manga animated as well, Ikoku Irokoi Romantan is a sweet, sexy, and humorous anime that no self-respecting yaoi fan can go without watching. Don't forget to bring the fundoshi!

Aarin's Manga Recommendations

I have only really started to get into yaoi manga in 2011, and have collected quite a large amount of yaoi manga over the years, all of them are published in English. While there are equally amount of good and not so good yaoi manga in my collection, here are some that I would like to recommend to you. I got a lot of personal favorites but I think these stood out for me and I will recommend the lesser mainstream ones:

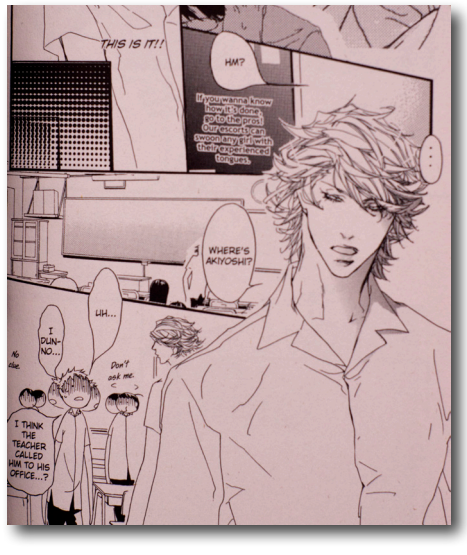


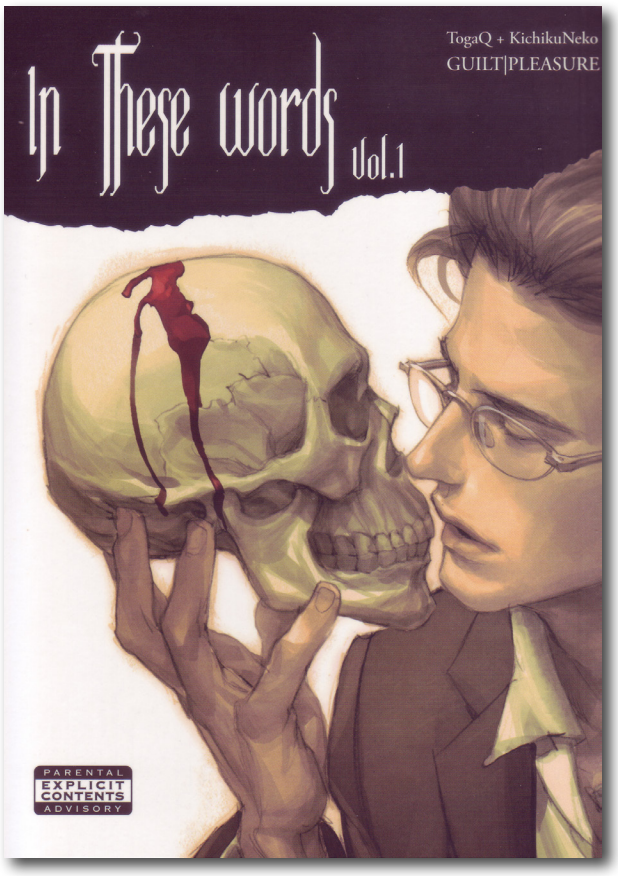
You Will Drown In Love
(by *Hinako Takanaga*)

Reiichiro gets through his "love-sickness" (from a prequel) by working in a kimono shop as a boss but he was so blunt about doing things at work that it leaves his employee, Jinnai, frustrated at his awkward boss. But the awkwardness crept into him and soon he discovers he's gaining interest in Reiichiro. The book contain some humor with Jinnai as a not-afraid-to-show-his-emotions seme as opposed to the calm and no-nonsense Reiichiro. That surely made the story more enjoyable and light-hearted at certain parts. The story is very predictable though, with a seme forcing on an uke scenario.

Cute Devil
(by *Hiro Madarame*)

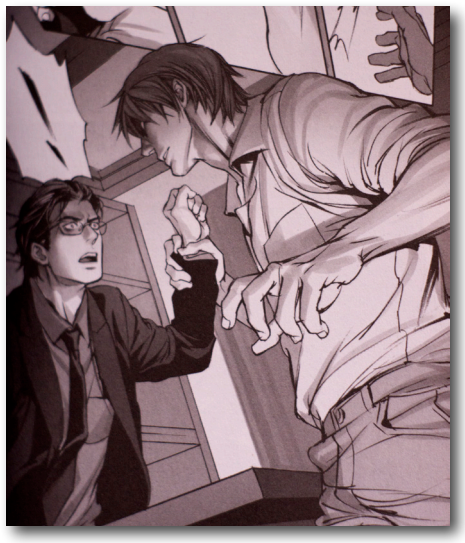
Akiyoshi is comfortable in life with top grades and student council responsibilities, but with effeminate looks similar to the prettiest boy in school, Fuuta. Behind the mask of an innocent beauty, Fuuta's got a savage streak, and he'll stop at nothing to make Akiyoshi his. If you like cute storyline with unpredictable story, this one is rather enjoyable, with lots of sparkly eyes thrown in.





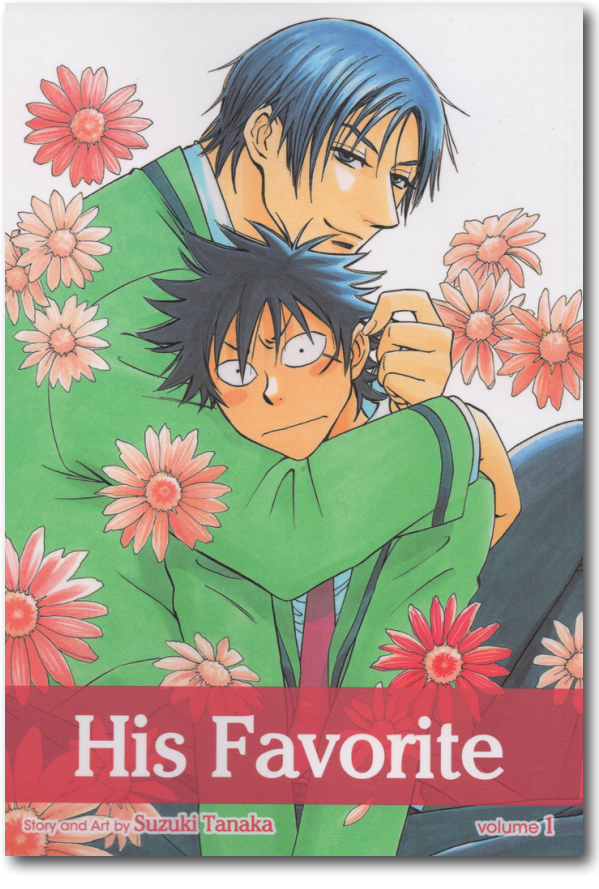
In These Words
(by *TogaQ and K.Neko*)

Asano Katsuya is a US trained psychiatrist assigned to the case of serial killer Shinohara Keiji, a sociopath who says he will only speak to Asano, the doctor begins having strange nightmares about a captivity and rape he doesn't think he remembers. The book is unusual as it opens with a prose prologue, the visuals are amazingly intense and the dark storyline is gripping. This is not a typical romance yaoi manga, but a thriller that will put you on an edge.



Missing Road
(by *Shushushu Sakurai*)

An epic sci-fi adventure of love, loss and redemption. Storyline is rather creative and interesting, although character development felt rushed, but it's recommended for sci-fi BL enthusiasts. There's no shortage of sexy action in this. Very good quality paper and printing by One-DramaQueen.



His Favorite
(by *Suzuki Tanaka*)

Awkward Yoshida is hated by all the girls in school for his perceived closeness with hot guy Sato, who uses hanging out with Yoshida as an excuse to turn them all down. The manga does not only always focus on the two main characters, but the side characters are pretty much involved too. The result is a hilarious storyline with variety of characters from looks to personalities.

Waninoko as HoroHoro (*Shaman King*)

Passion is everything

Waninoko Totodile is one of the few who's willing to leave their comfort zone in cosplay to express their love for yaoi

Q Hello Wani, thank you for sitting down with us. First of all, we're curious when or how did you start to cosplay? What interests you to cosplay?

I officially started my cosplay on August 2007 as Ginji Amano from Get Backers. Cosplay back then, we usually started it with some simple characters that we loved and managable to get it cosplayed. *laugh*
What interest me to cosplay is that we're able to become the character you like, dress like him and act like him. And its really rewarding when somebody recognize and calls out your character name and request for a photo taking. :D

Q Are there any other BL characters that you would like to cosplay?

I think I'm very interested to cosplay Konoe from Lamento, and Akira from Togainu no Chi. Ahh and I hope to find an Asami partner to cosplay with me for Takaba Akihito from ViewFinder!! I have another BL project with 1 of my close friend, but I'll reveal that character once I photoshoot it. >.< Its a very good BL manga, but I haven't seen anyone cosplay that series in Malaysia yet. *sad*

Q What do you think should be done to raise the awareness of BL among other's who are interested in the Anime culture?

Well BL is not really appreciated by haters, so most of the time we can only do it underground way. But I think with forum support (Aarinfantasy website) and several FB BL groups, it does help to bring the fans together. From here we can raise the awareness, slowly. Another way is to organize some simple gathering and events too.

Q What is the wildest fantasy you have with the character(s) you cosplay?

Okay I cosplay my characters in quite extreme way already: Took 2 years to learn violin for Kahoko from La Corda d'Oro (manage to play the exact song the character play). Took 1 month to learn cello for Shimizu from La Corda d'Oro. Took few weeks to learn and practice the spin-kick for Suzaku from Code Geass. Took 3 months to learn tennis for Ryoma from Prince of Tennis. Took 2 months to learn from my karate teacher on staff swinging for Son Goku from Gensomaden Saiyuki. And more coming up like learning skate-board and basketball(hint). All these, for being in character more accurately, to BECOME the character.

Other than this, I always wanted to photoshoot BL characters, or yaoi pairing on normal characters in a very extreme, intimate way. To bring out the passion and love of the character, and fanservice for the fellow fujoshis. XD

Q Cosplaying BL characters is crossdressing to you, so how do you feel about crossdressing?

Probably because I had always been quite tomboy, so crossdressing for me is pretty natural. I actually felt awkward to cosplay female character. T_T

Q Is there a secret ingredient when it comes to crossdressing? If yes, what would that be?

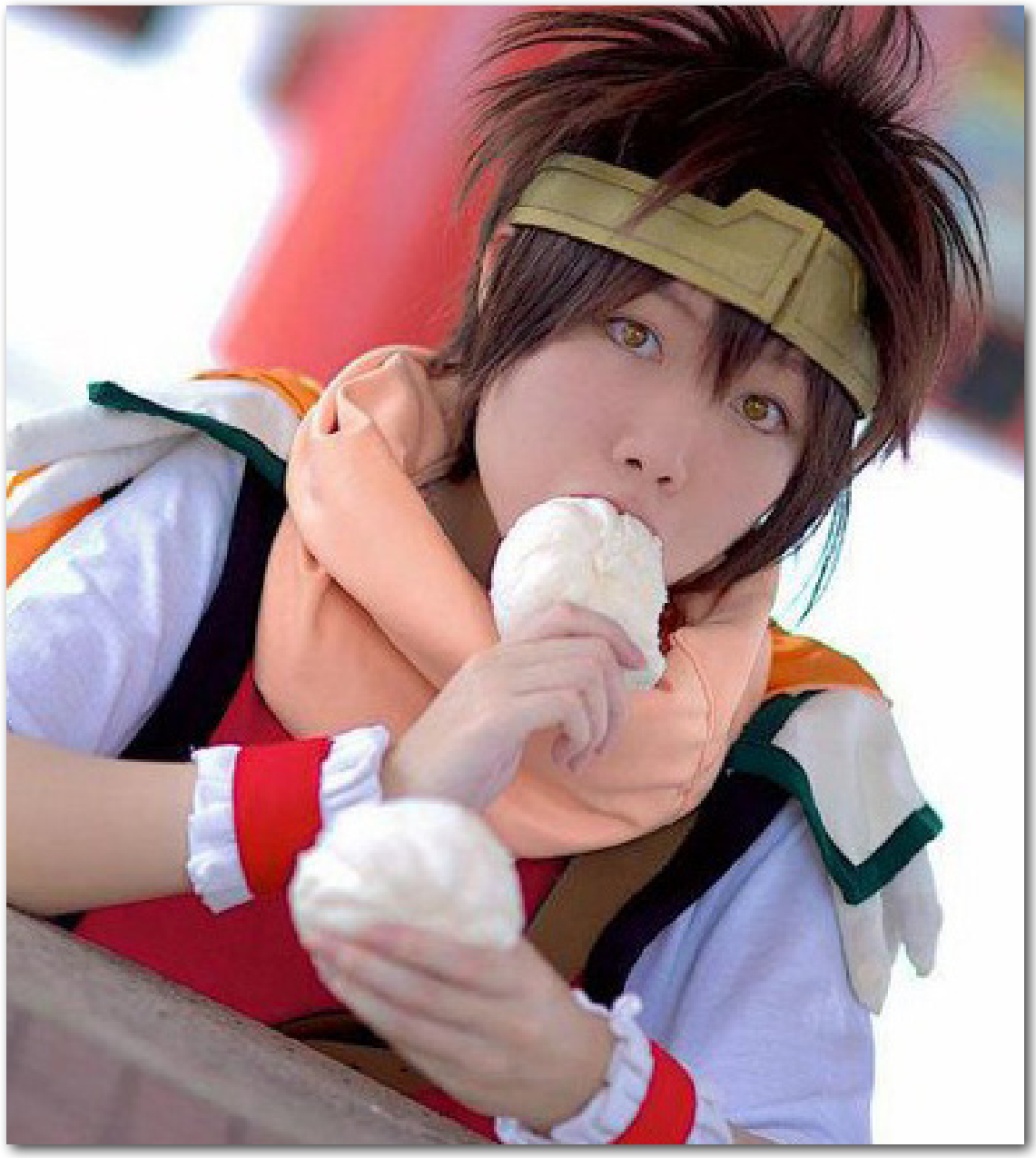
Secret ingredient? Small boobs helped a lot haha. Other than that, the act and poses had to be manly (which is my daily routine Dx). I think personality helps a lot too, as I mostly choose character which had very similar personality with myself, it does help make you easily become the character you cosplay. Again, thanks to my boyish personality, its not difficult to crossdress like a boy. T_T

Shiki Arep as Fushimi, and Waninoko as Yata Misaki (*Project K*)

(Left)
Shiki Arep as Fushimi and Waninoko as Yata Misaki (*Project K*)

(Bottom Left)
Endou Mamoru (*Inazuma Eleven*)

(Bottom Right)
Goku (*Saiyuki*)



Q How do you convince others that you're playing the other gender right?

Mostly if they see no boobs, then you're cosplaying male character. LOL. And for the reason I don't cosplay female, so naturally when they see me cosplay, no matter how cute it is, it has to be male character. =_=
But I used to make a friend of mine think that I'm male in real life for 2 years...

Q Have you ever encourage another cosplayer to cosplay BL characters?

Female cosplayers, YES. Male cosplayers, some yes. XD The guys had the body figure to cosplay them well. So jealous, so get them to be part of it, and be my seme. XD

Fans' Spotlight

Tenjou

ForumUsername: Tenjou
Age: 29
Gender: F
Location: Republic Of Moldova

1) When did you start liking BL/Yaoi stuff?
I started to like BL/Yaoi about 9 or 10 years ago, which started by pure coincidence. One of my anime-buddies [a guy, by the way] gave me as a gift the CtDs with "Gravitation", which at that time I had NO IDEA what it was about. He said that he got them from a Russian friend, and it's something that most girls like. I watched it and got hooked from the first kiss Eiri gave Shuichi. Then I got interested in manga too, and after that, since I like to read books, I started to read slash originals too.

2) Why do you like BL/ Yaoi?
It's hard to tell. I don't have a logical reason why I like it. It's all in my reaction to the idea of boys love and the emotions that I experience when I watch or read something Bl related. Maybe I don't even need an explanation. I like it; therefore I will read it/ watch it. ^_^. I am an avid reader; I like stories in any form.

3) Does anyone in real life know how much you like it?
Yes. My two best friends know about it, one of them even watches sometime shounen-ai with me. But she's not a fan like I am. It's more like she indulges in my passion. My other friend shares my passion, but again, not to the same extent as I. My brother knows that I like BL related stuff, but I don't think he knows to what extent. ^_~. I don't feel the need to talk about it, I feel that it's my personal secret and I don't want to share it. People do not understand why I like anime in general, much less if they knew I like BL too. Ah, such is life!

4) Which is your favorite BL/Yaoi title (anime or manga)? Who is your favorite character?
Another complicated question ^_~. Of course it's hard to choose, because there are so many beautiful mangas/ animes and great characters. But I think my favorite Yaoi anime title is "Junjou Romantica", I suppose it's because I like ALL the characters from this anime, especially Shinobu Takatsuki from "JunjouTerrorist" arc. Many do not like him, but I think his egoism is adorable and understandable to some extent. If we talk about manga, then I can say I like all Naono Bohra-sensei's work.

5) Complete this sentence: "Yaoi is an important part of my life because..."
"…it gives me new things to think about, new emotions and a mind-openness that otherwise I do not experience much!"

"Loving someone so madly and helplessly like this, I will never love like this again."

missmotoko

Forum Username: missmotoko
Age: 30
Gender: Female
Location: USA

1) When did you start liking BL/yaoi stuff?
2009, my late 20's.

2) Why do you like BL/yaoi?
Initially, it was for the sexual content. It's arousing; visceral. Fascinating and unique. When I discovered yaoi, I automatically fell in love with it. Not taken a back at all. With more exposure, I learned to appreciate the literary aspects.

3) Does anyone in real life knows how much you like it?
Yeah, my boss. How bizarre is that.

4) Which is your favorite BL/yaoi title (anime or manga)?Who is your favorite character?
That's easy, Doushitemo Furetakunai. I worship Yoneda Kou-sensei's work. My favorite character...that one's not so easy. It's a 3-way tie between Togawa-san of DF, Iason Mink of Ai no Kusabi and Yashiro of Saezuru Tori wa Habatakanai.

5) Complete this sentence: "Yaoi is an important part of my life because…"
…it provided me with a positive form of escapism. It got me through a very destructive relationship in which I was involved in for years. I don't know how I would have made through this extremely difficult period of my life without it. It's impossible for me to articulate how much I appreciate yaoi for doing what it did for me. Thus, yaoi is precious to me. Hope that makes a little bit of sense. " XD

yng_tr

Forum Username: yng_tr
Age: 22
Gender: Female
Location: Ludwig Von T kkent kker's Zepplin

1) When did you start liking BL/yaoi stuff?
I started to like yaoi when I was in 7th grade and when I was 12 years old.

2) Why do you like BL/yaoi?
Because its very unique and its very nice to see two guys falling in love instead of a boy and a girl.

3) Does anyone in real life knows how much you like it?
My friends and my older sister. Me and my sister would argue about the Sora/Riku pair from Kingdom Hearts while we're playing; she didn't understand why I like it so much.

4) Which is your favorite BL/yaoi title (anime or manga)? Who is your favorite character?
Hm... got alot of favorites but I love Enzai and my favorite character at the moment is Miisu from Shounen Maid Kuro Kun.

5) Complete this sentence: "Yaoi is an important part of my life because..."
it takes me to a better place where fantasy happens and helps me escape from the dark reality.

Top 10
BL/Yaoi Anime & Animix

*Based on AarinFantasy's forum vote results and download popularity

1 Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi

2 Junjou Romantica

3 Ai no Kusabi (2012)

4	Sensitive Pornograph
5	Viewfinder
6	Koisuru Boukun
7	Loveless
8	Gravitation
9	Tight Rope
10	Sex Pistols

TOP 10

BL/Yaoi Anime Pairings

*Results are based on AarinFantasy's forum vote results throughout 2010 - 2013

1 **Iason x Riki**
Ai no Kusabi

2 **Asami x Akihito**
Viewfinder

3 **Usami x Misaki**
Junjou Romantica

4 **Takano x Ritsu**
Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi

5 **Nowaki x Hiroki**
Junjou Romantica

6 **Miyagi x Shinobu**
Junjou Romantica

7 **Shiki x Akira**
Togainu no Chi

8 **Yukina x Kisa**
Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi

9 **Tori x Chiaki**
Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi

10 **Yuki x Shuichi**
Gravitation

"So, you've got yourself a little situation?"

Written by: GenericWit // Pics: Kirepapa anime

POP! SNAP! CRACKLE! You munch on your favorite candy and a bag of popcorn (who cares if you gain a few pounds?!). You are a pure genius. You have managed to successfully hook up your computer to your television. You are the epitome of fan girl/boy, wearing a cutsie top even while you're home alone, the sounds of j-rock always echoing in your ears, a thinly disguised glint in your eye as you push the play button.

Oh yeah.

You settle deeply into your couch, your body already heating up with anticipation as a man with strong arms, a glistening chest and chiseled abs reaches out and---

Oh no.

Oh no, oh no. OH NO! You didn't lock the door, and that's... your mom?! With your sister and her husband and your best friend and your ex-boyfriend, too?! Whaaaaa?!

You try to push the stop button before you realize that it would be easier to just turn off the t.v., but it's far too late for that now, isn't it? They've seen it, and they're all staring at you with a face that says, "what were you just watching?" A heavy silence hangs in the air as you figure out how to explain yourself, but it doesn't even matter, does it? There's a blush on your face that the uke in the yaoi you were just watching would be envious of. So, what now? Read on for six simple tips on how to get yourself out of the situation:

1

Don't get yourself in the situation in the first place. It may be self-explanatory, but seriously guys. It's something that's very overlooked in many delicate situations. If there is anyone that has the keys to your place of residence (or if you still live with your parents), just lock the deadbolt. Keep a chain, will you? Something, anything! Better yet, don't give out a key and make a note to tell people you don't like unannounced visitors. Make sure not to watch when you know a roommate or someone else might drop by. This will also keep them from walking in on you doing other things you probably shouldn't be doing in the first place.

2

Deny, deny, deny. It's happened. Most of us have probably been walked in on doing something you don't want others see you doing. Here's my perspective: ignorance is bliss. If they just saw you watching yaoi, and they disapprove of it or think it's weird, they're probably going to be easily led to believe they really didn't see what they thought they did. Especially if it's your parents. If they think of you as their "precious little boy/girl" then they're going to jump at the chance to continue thinking of you in that way.

3

Stay calm. For the love of all things holy, don't start sputtering out excuses. If they're not susceptible to denial, then don't start apologizing. You did nothing wrong (unless you're underage, you deviants, you)! You're allowed to make your own decisions, and now is hardly the time to talk about going to church to confess or how you'll go volunteer at a soup kitchen immediately. Take a deep breath and assess the situation.

4

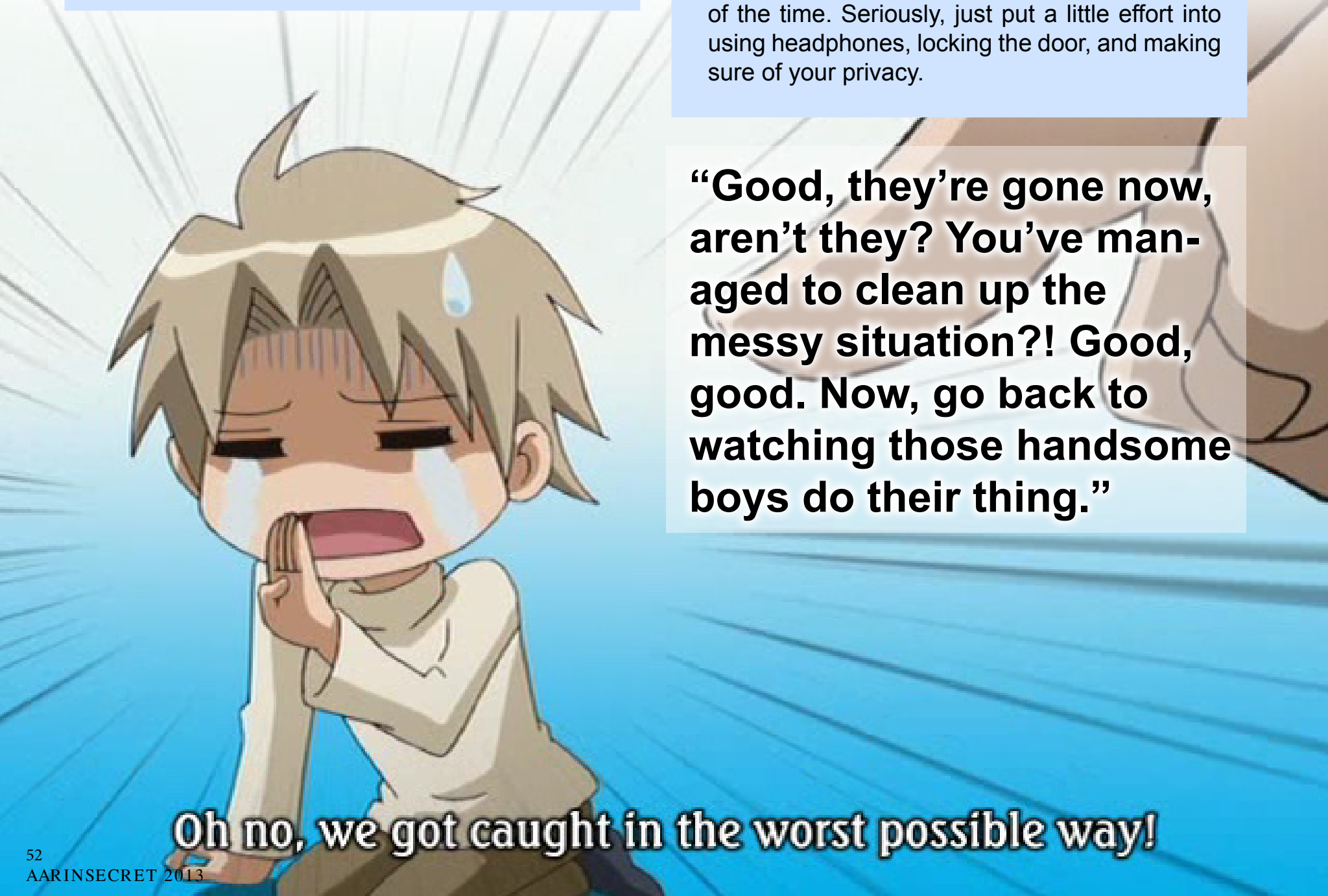
Think about who it is that caught you reading your manga, browsing that website, or watching that yaoi.Who are you hiding from? If it's a friend, why not just tell them the truth? I can honestly say that I don't know a single person past the age of 13 that hasn't seen porn. So, what are they going to do? Judge you when they just got finished watching some unreleased, Swedish BDSM orgy-fest? Give your friend some credit. If it's a relative, I still say stick with number two. Tee hee. But in all seriousness, depending on your age and what kind of relatives you have, you may just stick with telling the truth also. What's the worst that can happen? You'll both be a little embarrassed? Pfftt.

5

Shrug it off. It's not the end of the world. You will survive. You will all move out of the situation relatively unscathed. The faster you realize it's not that big of a deal, the faster they will realize that as well. Depending on what a trooper you are, you may even go so far as to go out for lunch with them or join them for coffee.

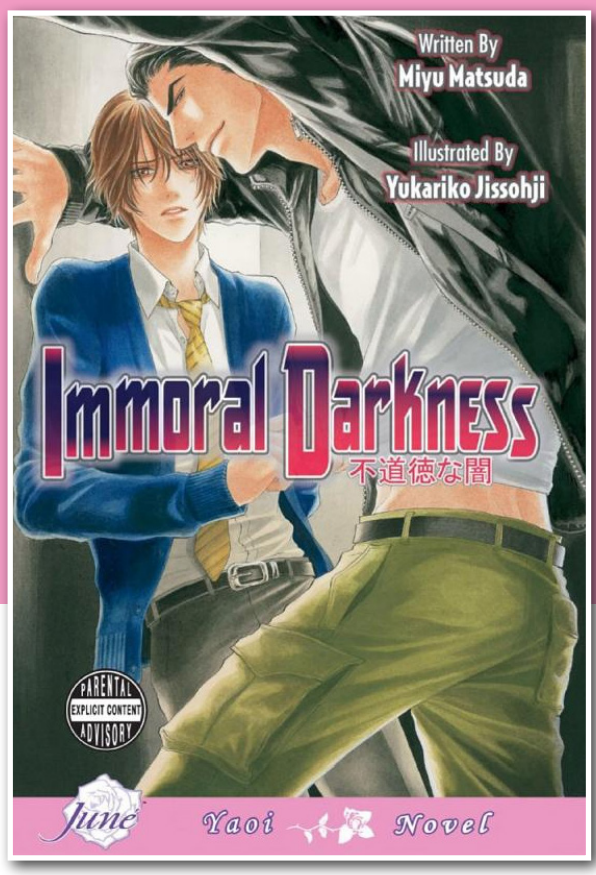
6

Never, ever, ever let it happen again. We're back full circle now. Whether you're living at home, in a dorm, with a roommate, or alone, you can avoid this 99% of the time. Seriously, just put a little effort into using headphones, locking the door, and making sure of your privacy.



"Good, they're gone now, aren't they? You've managed to clean up the messy situation?! Good, good. Now, go back to watching those handsome boys do their thing."

Immoral Darkness



Title:
Immoral Darkness

Written By:
Miyu Matsuda

Release Date:
12 August 2008

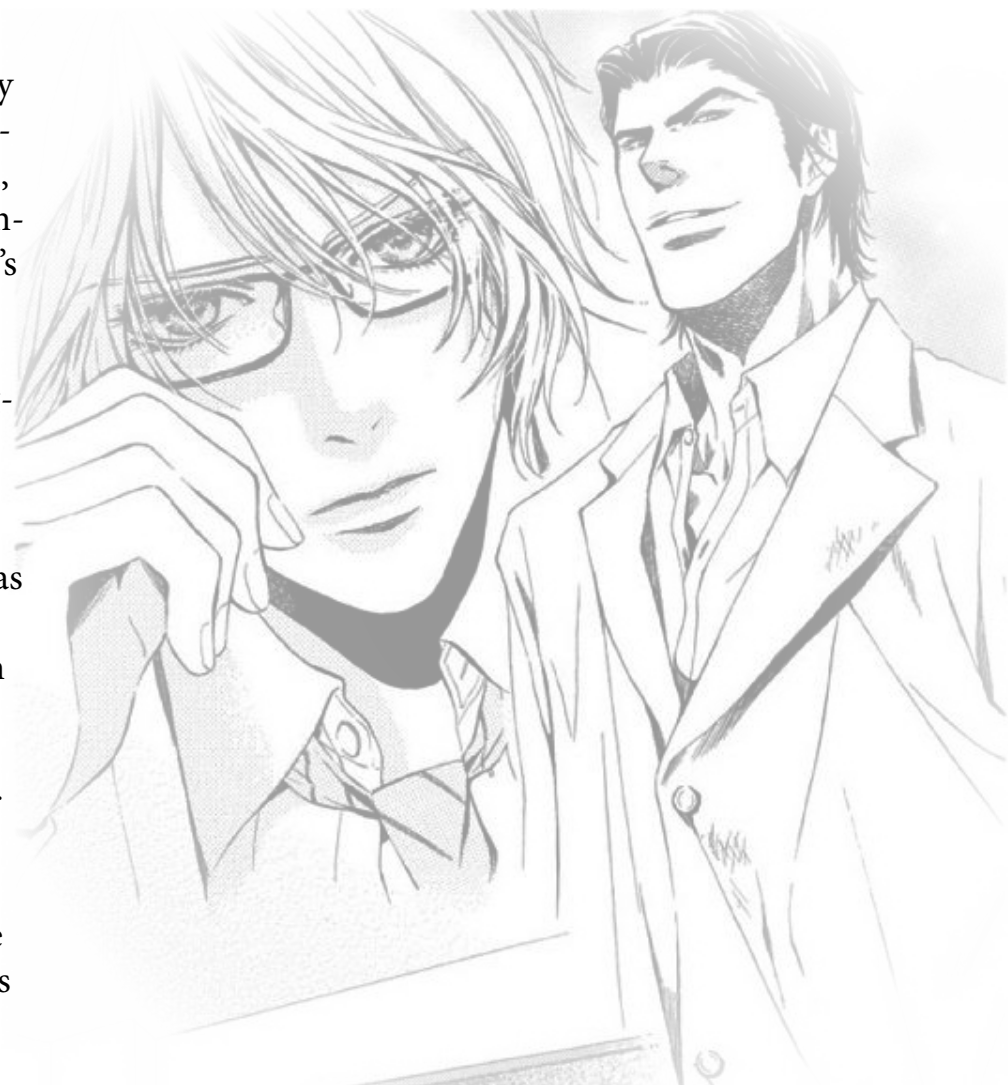
Publisher:
Juné

Reviewed by:
Niahary

If you have none yaoi novel to read and you want to have a good time, just try this one. Sure when you see the cover at first sight, you can't really imagine how great and interesting this story can be, I can say that, as it was my first yaoi novel. The beginning starts with the main character's family life and situation, which isn't really important to understand the plot. But it permits to understand this cute and hot boy mind, opinion and behaviour. It deals with a student who has a strange relationship with his math teacher. Just give you a special summary of the situation, the way I feel this book.
Shiina is a seventeen years old, cool and beautiful guy, who is used to be ignored by his parents who prefer his younger brother who is two years younger (but this detail doesn't really matter). We notice as we continue to read that Shiina is appreciated by women, and he is used to have sex with one of them, it's obvious she is older than him (even if we can think the contrary). And she paid him for this, but he isn't an escort boy (it's strange). But the story really begins when Shiina is in Math's lesson, with Sesagawa Tetsuya who is the teacher (of course), the way this math's teacher stares and looks at Shiina is ambiguous, and we can feel a tension.

I forget to say that Shiina is often alone, because he prefers to be like that, this point doesn't have to be neglected as it's one of the reasons why this hot boy will be closer with his dear teacher. One day, Shiina is attacked by few boys and man and fortunately (or not) his teacher went through the street, but as soon as Sesagawa saved him, he asks a reward for his help: "If you keep me company, I won't call on you in class for week. How about that?" and we discover later what that's pervert teacher really wants: It doesn't matter what you think. As you let me touch you however I want, I'll be satisfied". So here we are. The sequel is a succession of hot situations and Shiina's questions about is sexual orientation and his lonely life. Perhaps Sesagawa will save him from this state.

After reading this novel, it may make think about Okane Ga Nai, with the character of the saver who is in love with the cute boy. And this last one is younger than the saver. The differents in Miyu Matsuda's novel are the teacher hasn't as much money as Kanou. He is a simple man, as we can often see in life. He doesn't pay Shiina to have sex with him; it's more like sexual harassment, even if the first time it appears as a rape, even if Shiina said ok to his teacher reward (it's normal we are in yaoi). This novel is like a chocolate cake crunchy on the outside and soft and based within, just as Okane Ga Nai and few others yaoi such as Totally Captivated… at points. As always in yaoi, we find secondary characters as school students and classmates, a girl here. A teacher and adult friends.
Although they aren't as important or as present as in Junjou Romantica with Sumi or Isaka, they give some momentum to the plot. It is true that the reader's imagination plays a very important role, so that one is moved by the story. And here, the illustrated pages, designed to give life the imagination. They are like indices, which are marvellous pearls. Although this novel is not new, because it was released on 22 July 2008, I can't help advise you it. This novel marks perhaps the beginning of a long series of other yaoi novel, as was the case for me. To sum up, this novel is like a sweet cake with its dark and disorders (drama). But it holds the road and still worth taking. Miyu Matsuda has combined the most popular of its kind (yaoi). So read it and you will spend a good time with hot cakes and hot chocolate, candy or any candies that makes you happy.



Otome's Way

Otome's Way is a new digital BL manga operation aimed at promoting fresh Japanese BL manga talent not just within Japanese markets, but worldwide.

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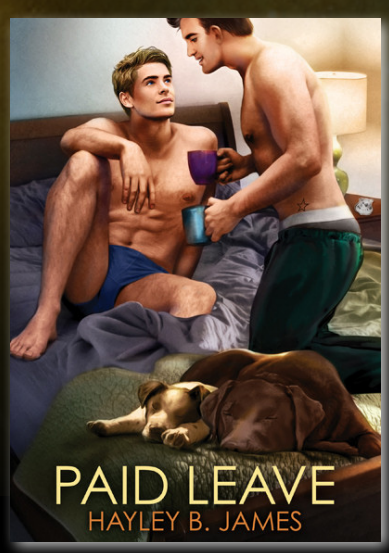

Hayley B. James is a male/male romance author first published by Dreamspinner Press in March 2011. She writes novels about law enforcement (Undercover Sins, Paid Leave), fantasy (World on Fire), and fantasy creatures (Fire Tango, Water Waltz)

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